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David Steinman

T-TPLF's habitual habits siphoning off dev't funds, aid theft

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Terrorist TPLF has well been experienced in looting food aid and siphoning development funds for the good of its cliques at the expense of the needy,

See T-TPLF's habitual ... page 4

Scholar highlights touristic value of Ethiopia's bond with Islam

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia should work to use its contribution to the spread of Islam and its acceptance in the Muslim world as a source of tourism, a researcher of Islamic history said.

The historian Adam Kamil (Assistant Professor) told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia contributed greatly to the spread of the faith by receiving and hosting Prophet Muhammad and his Companions when they were persecuted by the powerful Quraysh tribe in Makkah.

"The above fact has made Ethiopia widely accepted by the Muslim world," the scholar noted, adding that this acceptance and the role the country has played in the spread of Islam should be used as a source of income for tourist attraction.

"The celebration of Mawlid is a time to remember our closeness to the Prophet



Photo - Tsehay Nigussie

Adam Kamil (Assistant Professor)

Muhammad and to pass on his story to the next generation. Ethiopia is a country that received the followers of Prophet Muhammad when they were in trouble, so we find more than 30 words written in the Habesha language in the Holy Quran."

Noting the prevalence of 23 verses in the

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Photo - Gebabo Gebre

Ethiopian Muslims celebrate Mawlid

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian Muslims celebrated the 1,497th Mawlid, birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, colorfully across the country yesterday.

The Mawlid-un-Nabi was celebrated with various religious ceremonies all over Ethiopia.

The Great Anwar Mosque hosted a special holiday ceremony in attendance of religious fathers, government officials, invited guests and the Muslim community in Addis Ababa.

Fireworks of 9 cannons fired in the Capital yesterday morning to mark the occasion.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed extended his

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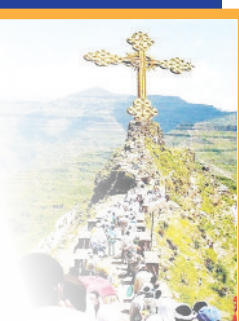


Ethiopia's effort in opening Banking Sector to foreign players

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Promoting religious tourism potentials

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News

Digital Ethiopia 2025 eyes 'cyber security' for digital sovereignty

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Cyber security is one of the major pillars that has been given due emphasis in digital Ethiopia 2025, so said Information Network Security Agency (INSA) of Ethiopia.

In his briefing held in connection with third national security month that is slated to happen soon, INSA Director General Solomon Soka noted that proper preparation that meets the 2025 plan standard is being undertaken.

The third national security month which is organized by Information Network Security Agency will be celebrated under the theme 'Integrated Cyber Security for Sovereignty' in October 2022.

Noting that the opening ceremony will be held on Tuesday with assorted events aiming to create public awareness on cyber security, month lasting exhibitions, workshops and symposiums will be held.

As part of informing the public on cyber-security, talks would be held on the role of private and public sectors with regard to how to minimize the vulnerability of cyber-attacks in the coming weeks of the month.

The plan is to reach out to over 10 million people social (digital) media outlets as well as conventional media are among.

High level government officials, officials from peace and security, finance, basic infrastructure, ICT professionals and other entities are expected to take part at the programs.

Following the ever increasing of technology, citizens, institutions, heavy infrastructures have become the major targets of cyber-attacks. Similarly, Public's lack of knowledge has been one of the main reasons for cyber-attack, in this regard, number of programs that aimed at enhancing the consciousness of the society regarding such attacks will be hold, as to him.

Moreover, he underlined that ensuring cyber security should not be left to a single entity. Thus, it is important to integrate national and international institutions. To this effect, it is vital to make indigenous and industry institutions, public and private institutions as well as citizens take the major role in curbing cyber-crimes, he added.

Similarly, INSA has developed policy, laws, inspection and standard frameworks as well as conduct awareness creation activities enhance the coverage of cyber security prevention and build capacity that can tackle cyber-attack.

It is to be recalled that INSA has managed to save 1.4 billion Birr by thwarting 97 percent of cyber-attacks attempted on various institutions in the country over 11 months.

Pan-Africanism Bonds Ethiopia-Ghana Strong ties: Minister

ADDIS ABABA (FBC) – Ethiopia and Ghana have had a strong friendship since the establishment of the African Union, Minister of Mines and Petroleum – Eng. Takele Uma said.

The Minister of Mines was the guest of honor at the Ethio-Ghana Fraternity Night organized by the Embassy of Ghana in Ethiopia.

In his remarks, Minister Takele Uma pointed out that the Pan-Africanism spirit that enabled Ethiopia and Ghana establish the African Union has further strengthened the bilateral relationship and made it possible to work closely and jointly on African issues.

Mrs. Amma A. Twum-Amoah, Ambassador of Ghana in Ethiopia, said that the two countries have made a significant contribution to the independence of African countries and the strengthening of the African Union.

Ghana, like Ethiopia, is known to possess natural mineral wealth, the ambassador said,



adding that it is achieving strong results in terms of health system, economic growth and human development.

Aklilu Taddese, Head of Youth Affairs of Center for Democracy Building at the Office of the Prime Minister, and Secretary of the National Committee, said that the early leaders of Ethiopia, Emperor Haile-Selassie and Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah,

played a leading role in the realization of Pan-Africanism and the establishment of the African institutions.

He said that the historical and political relationship between Ethiopia and Ghana has achieved victory in the anti-colonialism movement and the issues of African fraternity.

Industry group to grant sugar factories autonomy in management

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group disclosed that it has finalized processes to provide sugar factories with autonomous management rights and structure.

Industry Group Director-General Wayo Robba told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the group has finalized a system to provide five sugar factories with autonomously management by undertaking lots of reform activities, and board members are going to be assigned for them to be productive and competitive in the world of work.

“The group has been working in line with the government’s plan and agenda to improve the productivity and competitiveness of sugar factories. The main reform agenda is enabling and organizing all sugar factories to have their own independent management, specifically the three prominent sugar factories,” he added.

As to him, the group has finalized a factory based five years’ roadmap and strategic plan to improve the production and productivity of agriculture and sugar. Preparing and applying its own five year roadmap and strategic plan, each factory should be transformed into profit accumulation activities after 2025 or 2018 E.C.

In the research sector, the group has prepared a ten year roadmap to fill the skill and knowledge gap in the sector. The group has been working factories to have their own autonomous management so as



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Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group

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to help them transform for better benefit, productivity, solve challenging problems on their own and enable them to decide unconventionally. As part of this effort, activities are underway to independently organize five operational factories.

Such a promising move will give an opportunity for factories to increase the production and productivity of agriculture, competitiveness, transformation to the next

level of success.

He said, “The structure varies from factory to factory as per the system they would like to employ. Now, we are aggressively working to augment production and productivity of sugar products. It has been working to have a better industry in the world implementing reform agendas. The recent sugar shortage has occurred due to the Russia-Ukraine war.”

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Burying the hatchet nursing a grudge?

Stretching out hands for a peace deal before shaking hands with oneself is nothing more than a farce.

Proving a tongue of honey and a heart of gall has no other objective than meeting one's hidden agenda that turns unacceptable under the glare of light.

On the global level, demonstrating eloquence when it comes to burying the hatchet, while nursing a grudge in one's heart of hearts has no different goal than inflicting harm on a genuine partner on the other end of the scale and hoodwinking those that preside over a peace deal. It is also tantamount to pouring cold water over victims eagerly looking forward for amicable settlement of altercations.

Also scapegoating others ceaselessly targeting doves that symbolize peace entails unnecessary sacrifices for the sake of much-wanted peace that turns elusive.

In peace deals that prove in a limbo studying the behavioral pattern of the parties involved helps to tell the victim from the villain.

The Ethiopian government that is considerate to its citizens has been willing to allow cessation of hostilities even at a time when it portrayed its military prowess of chasing and cornering T-PLF troops. It did so in order to minimize civilian casualties, annihilation of heritages, and destruction of infrastructural facilities. This bent was seen in the first counter offensive after T-PLF stabbed the Northern command of ENDF on the back.

Regarding humanitarian truce, in the second and third counter offensives, the government was willing to allow corridors for humanitarian aid packed vehicles to reach people of Tigray even after it realized and the international community understood T-PLF is channeling the aid-stuffs, the vehicles and the fuel meant for the vehicles towards its end gain, taking the military upper hand by foul play.

The incumbent had also established a peace committee, led by the deputy Prime minister, which came up with a peace proposal but T-PLF, ironic as it proves, greeted it with a cold shoulder launching a war on the morrow.

Also in quest of a peaceful resolution, enter ministerial taskforce was established but unfortunately it was not reciprocated by the terrorist cliques.

On the flip side, T-PLF has the tendency of beating war songs when it makes possible military advances and clamoring for help when gripped by the throat for its satanic deeds, yet the incumbent has been proffering a dove for it to see to

reason and embrace amity but the former adores shooting down the dove.

T-PLF that was mocking mothers on their knees that beseeched its leaders to bury the hatches coming to terms with the reality is now seen on its knees to beseech certain quarters to broker peace for it, shunning the disinterested African peace mediators.

Here it is necessary to see the checkered past of T-PLF. From its very inception infusing people of Tigray with fatuous rhetoric T-PLF has been making them pay heavily in vain deluding and coercing them to rally behind its diabolic dream of ascending to the power pedestal.

Still at this juncture, than ever before, it has kept on the indulgent folly of cannon foddering Tigrayans, subjected to the throes of ceaseless travails. With one leg in the grave, the terrorist group fabricating scare-tactic- charged narratives, which strike fear in the heart of Tigrayans, that they are encircled to the extent of facing existential threat, it aims at prolonging its power grip. Creating bloodshed on its sway, provoking neighboring states and Eritrea, true to its innate bent, courting clashes of evening the score it labors not to lose its charm among Tigrayans, who otherwise were living peacefully and lovingly with their siblings and cousins.

In the space of close to 50 years touting about a vain democracy and freedom it had subjected hundreds of thousands of Tigrayan youths to death and mayhem to saddle people of Tigray despotic and Tyrant leaders. In so doing it had stripped people of Tigray the inherent right of shaping their fate. Putting in place a security system and similar structures up to the grass roots that tie Tigrayans hand to foot it had divested them entertaining alternatives. It was risking their neck or on their toes to seek asylum radical Tigrayans were square facing the system with plausible narrative.

With the catch phrase:

"T-PLF and Tigrayans" are the two sides of a coin T-PLF, on its death bed, labours to liken the two unwilling to remind itself that the latter will press ahead with adding hues to the glorious history of the nation down socioeconomic, political and historic lanes of the country.

The group doesn't have an iota of care for Tigrayans that is why T-PLF is dragging its foot from the peace talks.

Opinion

Ethio-Kenya relations should further be flourished

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The relation between Ethiopia and Kenya is beyond neighborhood. And further than official government to government diplomatic relations, the people-to-people relation between Ethiopia and Kenya is like a single nation. The boundary between the two countries is a soft boundary that becomes an economic corridor for both states and the people living in the border areas of the two countries are enjoying the relation.

Ethio-Kenya relation is politically stable, economically strong and socially bonded historic relation. These two neighboring countries have been enjoying their relations for centuries smoothly and peacefully. Unlike other neighboring states features in Africa that is full of completion, contention and dispute, the Ethio-Kenyan neighborhood is stable, peaceful and smooth for long period of time. It is something unique to see such like traditionally stable diplomatic relation for long period in the volatile region of the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia and Kenya are interconnected with energy and the two countries with South Sudan are working to build an economic corridor to connect with the Kenya's Lamu Port. Currently, Kenya based telecom; Safaricom is also becoming the only foreign company started telecom service in Ethiopia following the liberalization of the telecom sector by the Government of Ethiopia. The

trade relation of the two countries is also strong.

This week, Kenya agreed to import wheat from Ethiopia. Ethiopia's wheat investment is growing following the development of irrigation based wheat production. Now, since Ethiopia is preparing to export wheat, Kenya becomes the first country ready to import wheat from Ethiopia following the two countries leaders' agreement in Addis Ababa this Thursday.

Ethiopia, the nucleus of the Horn of African region is the major actor of the Horn of Africa. Similarly, Kenya, with its stable political and economic development, is a major actor in the region. Both countries are also members and major actors of the Inter Governments Authority for Development (IGAD). The people to people and government to government relation of Ethio-Kenya is among the smooth, peaceful, stable relations that continued for centuries without major challenges.

On Thursday, the fifth President of Kenya, President William Ruto, just within a month of his presidential inauguration, came to Ethiopia for an official working visit. Ruto holds bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and both leaders attended the official launching ceremony of Safaricom Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. Well coming Ruto, PM Abiy said, "The relation between Kenya and Ethiopia is established on strong foundations and cordial cooperation

focused on matters of mutual interests."

The Ethio-Kenya relation is a text book example of win-win cooperation and the two countries are keeping their smooth and friendly relationship in the volatile region of the Horn of Africa. The relation of the two countries never changed with time, situations and leadership change, the relation between the two countries is continuously growing and becoming multidimensional. Now, they are interconnecting with more infrastructural and development sectors in addition to working together for the development of the two countries and for the stability and peace of the region as a whole.

Kenya has ports and Ethiopia is a landlocked country. Ethiopia is investing in road and dry port preparation to use Kenya ports. On the other hand, Ethiopia has a comparative advantage in renewable energy production and a grid connection is already completed to connect Ethiopia and Kenya. The trade relation between the two countries is also growing from year to year, though still it needs further interventions to capitalize it. The two countries have their own comparative advantages in all sectors and the people of the two countries are old enough to become an opportunity for the two countries products market. Safaricom's opportunity in Ethiopia and the Kenya's decision to import Ethiopia's wheat grain are simple examples.

Ethiopia's *Medemer* foreign policy

approach gives due attention for the diplomatic relation of neighboring countries. Kenya, as a major actor of the region and true friend of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian foreign policy approach towards Kenya aims strengthening all relations so as to heighten the traditional relation of the two countries to maximize mutual benefits of the two countries through a win-win approach.

Keeping this old, historic and peaceful relation is one thing. But, only keeping it is not enough this time, it needs renewing, heightening and maximizing it for better mutual development of the two countries. These days, cooperation among states is the only way for common development and since the destiny of Ethiopia and Kenya is inseparable, it is crucial to improve, heighten and develop the relation in all sectors for better mutual development.

Keeping the traditional smooth relation, the governments of the two countries are exchanged views on ways of transforming the Ethio-Kenya all-rounded relations. Similarly, the leaders of the two countries in their discussion here in Addis Ababa agreed to work together to take the relation a higher level and to increase cross-border trade.

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

News



University, ICRC improving pastoralists, agro-pastoralists livelihoods

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

ADDIS ABABA - The integrated support of Haramaya University and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has improved the lives of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists living at the Oromia and Somalia border in Chinaksen Woreda.

Seed Multiplication Project Coordinator at Chinaksen woreda and Haramaya University lecturer Kamal Kassim told *The Ethiopian Herald* that before the political reform in Ethiopia, the pastoralists were displaced from their homes due to the conflict in the border areas of the two states.

Hence, they were exposed to severe problems, forced to lead their life depending on their relatives, engage in charcoal trading, do various menial jobs in the cities, and so on. Apart from the conflict, recurrent drought has made their life difficult, he said.

Nevertheless, with the peace and stability that came following the reform, the pastoralists living in eastern Hararge Chinaksen woreda not only returned to their villages but also start agricultural activities.

Although suitable and large agricultural land is available in the area, the pastoralists limited agricultural knowledge made their farming activities very challenging. Hence, the university and the ICRC implement a project in collaboration with the government to change the life of the pastoralists.

Especially, to increase production and productivity, the pastoralists, by organizing 9 clusters, have given training on how to produce, store and supply improved seeds to the market, as well as the use of new agricultural technology, he elaborated.

Since the woreda is suitable for wheat production, the University, among the 25 wheat varieties that are being identified

by the university experts via research, has given improved seeds to the pastoralist that can withstand drought and disease and is compatible with the climate in the area.

Consequently, in the last two years, apart from their consumption, they earned 4.2 million Birr by producing 1,077 quintals of wheat and selling to the market from the 130 quintals of wheat and 15 quintals of corn improved seeds that were divided among the pastoralists. This helped them to buy a new brand of tractor to further modernize their agriculture activities.

Viewing the outstanding results achieved in the last two years, the pastoralists were able to cultivate 201 hectares for this farming season in line with the government's summer wheat development plan.

The farmers who benefit from the project comment that three years ago they could not lead a stable life due to conflict, and droughts occurred in the specified area. But, currently, they are performing better agricultural activities with the support given to them by the University and ICRC.

Amina Beker, who is engaged in agriculture, explained that once sowed 50 quintals and obtained 17 quintals and suffered a huge loss. But in the last three years, the skill, knowledge, and support that they got from the University and ICRC helped them a lot to be benefited from their agricultural activities.

Farmer Abdul Fatadawood said that due to the conflict and drought in the woreda, they were displaced and faced various problems. Nonetheless, at present, with the support of the university and ICRC, they are not only producing improved seeds for themselves but also giving farmers in the surrounding area to produce and sell the seeds.

Association sounds alarm about some media's fake news

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters has emphasized that Ethiopian media outlets have to be proactive to halt false information being circulated by some international media against Ethiopia.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Association General Manager Endeshaw Woldemichael (Ph.D.) stated that over the past three years some international media outlets launched disinformation campaign over Ethiopia in connection with the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia.

He added that anyone who carefully examined the stories of these media outlets about Ethiopia as well as their reporting methods and news sources can clearly understand what their intention is.

In light of their activities over the past three years, it is fair to say these media institutions do not care about the ethics of journalism, but about their political interests, he opined.

The integrity of these media institutions is in danger by the fact that they have been busy spreading false information, Endeshaw said adding that they should have been role models for others in terms of their long-term experience and acceptance.

According to him, these media outlets have been causing many problems not only in Ethiopia but also in other countries for their political interests.

Endeshaw further insisted that all Ethiopians should stand guard for the country by exposing this false information and ensuring that the international community gets the right information about Ethiopia.

Over the past three years, patriotic Ethiopians and peoples of Ethiopian descent have been explaining Ethiopia's reality to the world and defending their country by using different platforms, including some international media outlets, also he indicated.

He said: "These activities have to be strengthened because nobody can speak more about our own affairs than we do. And, the government should encourage such good practices."

Founded in 2018, the Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters is a group of licensed and privately owned broadcasters operating in Ethiopia and the members include Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (EBS), Walta Media and Communications, Oromia Broadcasting Service (OBS), Kana TV, Arts TV, Afrihealth TV, Ahadu TV, Hagere TV, Asham TV, JTV, among others.

Ethiopian Muslims...

goodwill wishes to Ethiopians on celebration of Mawlid. The Prime Minister wrote Mawlid greetings on his social media platforms stating, "The world benefited greatly from the birth of Prophet

Muhammad. He changed the history of the world. He has changed the lives of humans," adding that while celebrating the Mawled-un-Nabi holiday everyone ought to aim to improve the history of the world.

Scholar highlights touristic...

Holy Quran that praise Ethiopia, Adam highlighted that international research centers are working on whether Islam's international message would have been established if Habesha had not stood by the Prophet at that time. "The researchers also came to the conclusion that all Muslims in the world are debtors to Habesha."

Ethiopia's ancient embrace of Christianity, Judaism and Islam is because the people are religious, the unity has been strengthened and the country's independence has been preserved.

As to him, Ethiopia and Ethiopians have great respect in the Muslim world. "Since Ethiopia accepted Islam earlier than the rest of the world, it is a task expected from all citizens to

use this good opportunity to tell the story well and turn it into a tourist attraction and a way to earn foreign currency."

Ethiopia's biggest challenge is poverty, as all countries are giving priority to their own citizens and job opportunities are shrinking, the youth should shun emigration and make use of the opportunities here. On their part, the government and other stakeholders need to create jobs and to move Ethiopia forward. "This can only be done when Ethiopians work together in a spirit of unity and when we celebrate the holidays of any religion, we should take care and protect them in the same spirit, understanding that it is the honor, celebration and wealth of all Ethiopians," the historian remarked.

T-TPLF's habitual habits siphoning...

American Economist said.

American Economist and Ethiopian Democracy Advocate David Steinman told media that T-TPLF has well been experienced in diverting and looting aid meant to the development for group's benefit.

He further said that T-TPLF has all the time looted money coming into the country in

the form of aid and used it to pay lobby groups and run propaganda campaign for the conflict.

"I published a piece in Forbes which exposes T-TPLF embezzlement of foreign aid which U.S had given to Ethiopia for developmental purposes, but U.S and international community have turned a blind eye to the theft money," said the expert.

One cannot really differentiate between money that comes from different source, foreign aid, investment all goes under the same centralized control and T-TPLF embezzled billions of dollars that were intended for humanitarian purposes.

"They have spent some of the money on humanitarian and the humanitarian aid was excessively given on an ethnic basis in favor of their own ethnic group. But they also invested a lot of it just for their own personal benefit of top leaders," he indicated.

All the money that was really supposed to be pumped to the country in the fight against poverty was diverted for another purpose. TPLF did a successful economy for fattening top leaders' pockets, not a national economy.

"People didn't understand that when the foreign aid meant for development, it was diverted to personal profit which has potentially led the country to be in a state of being poor and dependent of foreign aid," he said.

Opinion

Who sponsored terrorism, who is the scapegoat?

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Gangs of bureaucrats and assemble of arrogant chaired there to snatch away another chair from those on the carpet. Religion preached making wall of vengeance between Jacob and Assay to reach nowhere. There are others who are making the word aghley and making the living planet infertile and sustain humanity in panic.

Ethiopia has been making tribute in producing the world and it is a mighty name inscribed in the holy Bible and Quran for.....

Who is Achilles? Who is Hector and who is Helen to write an epic? They the Maxim gun inventors pretend to preach the ten commandment committing immeasurable sins.

Among that, most notably the western hate Ethiopia however their hate autosuggestion emanated from humiliation resulted from the white defeated by the scimitar of Balcha.

Before the emergence of nationalism politics and so the Amhara, Tigray and Oromo are kin and traveled chronology without mentioning identity. Nonetheless, some collaborators received joker from the then colonialists and they are paying tribute for their collaborator fathers and forefathers.

Of course it would be selfishness to deny bravery and patriotism of the Tigrayans glaciating with their brothers in withstanding foreign aggression and incorporating a strong empire in East Africa may be after the Egyptian and Mero civilization.

Due to circumstance the power rivalry between the Ethiopian nations and nationalities appeared to be golden opportunity to violate the mysterious magnetism and age long harmony.

In due course, taking advantage of some collaborator group, the defeated group sow seeds of discord among brotherly people of the various nations.

After the breakneck reform the new administration under the leadership of Abiy Ahmed tried and mentor them how the bottle is half filled is so important however Terrorist TPLF ignored all possibilities of peace and warring embargo relaying on the head of the snake.

What is more, peace is a matter of existence for the crying children of the Horn for the ridiculous war claim lives of many, left thousands in trauma from each side according to the writer of this piece.

The federal government of Ethiopia is yet optimistic to settle down disputes in round table, no matter the perspective from the other pole seemed gloomy.

In response to the humanitarian truce announced by the Ethiopian Federal Government in the conflict-affected Tigray region which Tigrayan authorities have said they will respect if sufficient aid reaches Tigray within a reasonable timeframe, Sarah Jackson, Amnesty International's Deputy

Ethicizing violence may further deteriorate the situation, endanger the security and wellbeing of the survivors, fracture the inter communal relations between communities, and eventually threaten the very survival of our beloved country



Director for East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes region said:

“The humanitarian truce is a positive step for millions of people trapped in the conflict in Tigray region, where meager humanitarian aid supplies have left people starving – with insufficient food, water and other essentials.

Amnesty International urges all actors in the conflict to seize this opportunity to avoid worsening the humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding in Tigray. Children and women are dangerously malnourished, and media reports suggest many are already dying of starvation.

All parties to the conflict must immediately allow humanitarian aid workers uninterrupted access to all conflict-affected areas of northern Ethiopia, including Afar and Amhara regions. This includes opening the flow of aid through the Afar-Tigray land route, which has been closed following the renewed fighting in the border area, and resumption of critical services such as banking, power, and mobile and internet communication.”

But we insist for the warring parties and the poor citizenry to put emphasis on mutual developmental goal and emancipate from slavery. Let's learn a lesson from the civil wars and the Ogaden war and conflicts with Sudan. It is time to be on the alert to avert the conspiracies and plots devised by the

Westerns and Ethiopia's historical enemies.

The move toward negotiations began subsequent to the Tigrayans withdrawal and followed a series of conciliatory gestures signaling the two sides' willingness to shift from a military to a political footing.

In December, Prime Minister Abiy's government ordered the federal military to refrain from fully re-entering Tigray before releasing key opposition prisoners, including a number of T-TPLF veterans.

It also advanced a plan for a national dialogue to address the country's chronic political problems. The next major step was a federal humanitarian truce on 24 March, which Tigray's leaders said they would reciprocate four days later. The next month, Tigray's forces withdrew from most of the positions in neighboring Afar region that they had taken up earlier in 2022 in response to a perceived threat from local armed groups.

Time teaches and experience makes it easier for everyone to move on. It is important to understand that the system of our country, Ethiopia, which is based on the politics of language federalism, has some negative characteristics.

Given the long history of Eritrea-Ethiopia relations, it is clear that we did not choose the right path either way. In addition to avoiding the so-called deadly wars and conflicts, there is still a need to learn from the colonial process to independence.

Beyond the current problems and temporary needs of the two parties, the political forces have to put in place, the consensus of the masses and the real interest, if we can do this at all times, we will always have the opportunity to try our best.

We need to understand from our past history that it is a combination of superstition, ambiguity based on selfishness and love. It is easy to see why the problem was so far-reaching, but it cost the two peoples dearly.

Although the two sides appear ready to negotiate, there has been some jostling over who will mediate the talks and where they should take place. In his open letter, Terrorist TPLF leader said the parties should meet in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

They also alleged that the African Union's envoy for the Horn of Africa, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, is too close to Addis Ababa. For its part, the federal government has generally been supportive of Obasanjo, who has thus far served as one of the principal go-betweens in the conflict along with the U.S. envoy.

This writer feels that it is time to enter venture and might be wise decision to end era of conflict before it gets too late, though some could say even now is too late.

Now every rational Ethiopian understands that what has happened in north Ethiopia is a massacre against humanity due to ideal stance of politicians, a deliberate killing of innocent people that the TPLF orchestrated.

A cruel and barbaric act motivated by deep hatred against the Amharas, and a full scale act of terror against civilians.

Ethicizing violence may further deteriorate the situation, endanger the security and wellbeing of the survivors, fracture the inter communal relations between communities, and eventually threaten the very survival of our beloved country.

We were wrong to think so. Our silence did not save our people from the monsters. That said I believe deliberating on the way forward is more important than the cry.

The solution should be action. That includes action to properly investigate the situation and take concrete measure to bring perpetrators to justice, action to compensate the victims and ensure the security of the remaining minorities living within minority ethnic and religious groups, action to dismantle the discriminatory constitutions and laws.

Who should do that? It is the duty of the government, political actors, civil society groups, the media, and all other peace loving Ethiopian stakeholders. How can they do that? It is by acting responsibly; by taking action based on their spheres of influence and responsibility; by conducting inclusive national dialogue and charting out a concrete plan of action and implementing it, and by taking other pragmatic actions. It is very important to understand the previous behavior of the party you are negotiating with.

The decision to peace talks is not an easier one. The people and government of Ethiopia are holding the olive branch while they clearly understand who the terrorist group is—the group has been antithesis of Ethiopia's development by waging war against the central government. It did so in the past as well.

The group's interest is clear to all. It has been and is still serving some interest groups at the cost of the Ethiopian people. Whatever their interest is; it is determined to fulfill it. It kills, loots, destroys property, gang rape women including nuns—all too terrorist communities and achieve the interests and Ethiopian's arch enemies.

These interest groups have dominated the international community. They have strong organizations that work in the name of media, humanitarianism, human rights and academia. They get a huge level of diplomatic and media assistance, not to mention the financial, logistical and other supports. But, there are still friends of Ethiopia. Moreover, the people of Ethiopia never succumb to the machinations of these groups. Defeated groups will not succeed.

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia's effort in opening Banking Sector to foreign players

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In recent decades, developed and developing countries increasingly allow banks to be foreign-owned. However, many Sub Saharan African countries are unwilling to open the banking industries to foreign ownership. Will policies that encourage international banking sector integration spur economic growth in developing countries? The role of foreign banks in developing countries has been hotly debated and the issue is still far from conclusive effects. International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) consider that banking sector integration spurs economic growth in developing countries.

By bringing additional capital, allocation of funds for profitable users, exerting corporate control, and enabling risk management, foreign banks may directly boost capital accumulation and accelerate long-run economic growth.

A number of documents confirm that the entry of foreign banks brings large benefits to host countries' financial systems and economies at large. Benefits stem from efficiency gains brought about by new technologies, products and management techniques as well as from increased competition stimulated by new entrants. Moreover, as foreign banks may have greater access to resources from abroad, they have more stable funding and lending patterns than domestic banks. They also hold a more geographically diversified credit portfolio and hence would not be as affected during periods of stress in the host country.

Another important issue for Emerging Market Economy (EME) is related to impacts on connected lending practices by banks. In EME where wealth is highly concentrated it is common that banks' board members, stakeholders and large borrowers are closely related. Foreign banks do not get involved in connected lending both because they do not have related parties in the host country and their widely held equity structure does not encourage this kind of behavior.

At the same time, foreign investment in the financial sector raises some concerns. The greater participation of foreign institutions might expose host economies to events taking place in other countries where their foreign banks operate. On one hand, international banks have access to more investment alternatives and thus are more prone to "cut and run" than domestically owned banks when their investments are not performing as expected. On the other hand, local stakeholders in EME face greater transaction costs and usually have vested interests that prevent them from unloading their financial investments. Further concerns arise because modern technologies used by large foreign banks rely mainly on hard data not always available in EME especially for small and medium enterprises;

Therefore, banks could end up rationing credit to this type of firms or increasing risks borne by domestic institutions attempting to serve more opaque customers as a result of



Opening of the banking sector for foreign direct investment (FDI) is part of the Homegrown Economic Reform program that has been implemented

greater competition.

In an effort to ensure and advance financial inclusion, Ethiopia is opening its market to the foreign banks. Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide said that the decision to open up the banking sector to foreign investors will help to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), creating service competitiveness.

As the Council of Ministers has recently passed a landmark decision to open the Ethiopian banking sector to foreign investors, preparation is underway.

In an exclusive interview with local media, the finance minister said the National Bank

of Ethiopia is working on the details of the regulatory aspect, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, and then to the parliament in the coming few months.

Opening of the banking sector for foreign direct investment (FDI) is part of the Homegrown Economic Reform program that has been implemented, he added.

"Once operational, it (the policy) will attract significant investment into the country in terms of additional finance and will expand the banking sector in general. It will also introduce competition in the banking sector, further boosting the financial inclusion agenda of the government and modernizing the banking sector."

According to him, Ethiopia is striving to improve the investment climate and attract private sector investment and this historic decision will boost the competitiveness of the financial sector by unlocking the potential of the financial market.

On top of improving macroeconomic imbalance, the decision will help to create an efficient, technologically equipped, and competitive banking industry that triggers critical chain effects on all economic activities.

"So, significant investment will be facilitated as a result of this, and by introducing additional capacity, competition, modern technology, and new financial services, (it) will further boost the financial sector in general, advance our financial inclusion agenda and enable more of our business sector," the minister elaborated.

Domestic banking sector has been enjoying a lot in the past in terms of growth, Ahmed stated, adding that "their growth will be enhanced as a result of this competition. They need to consolidate, upgrade, and be ready for the competition."

Over the last four years, total assets of the local banks have soared from 1.3 trillion Birr to 2.4 trillion Birr, registering 92% growth; while total deposits increased from

899,811 billion Birr to 1.7 trillion Birr.

The number of banks has increased from 18 to 30 with the total capital of banks jumping from 98.9 billion Birr in 2019 to 199.1 billion in 2022, registering 27 percent average yearly growth.

Foreign banks may influence long-run economic growth directly through bringing additional capital, new and better skills, management techniques, training procedures, technology, and products to the domestic market. It also facilitates risk management and improves the efficiency of resource allocation in ways that accelerate long-run economic growth. By contesting markets and sharpening competition, foreign banks raise the overall level of banking sector efficiency. Thus, domestic banks provide better services; domestic banks become better at mobilizing savings, energetically seeking profitable uses for these savings, exerting corporate control, and easing risk management in ways that accelerate long-run economic growth.

As the role of foreign banks with respect to banking stability has been a topic high on the policy and research agenda since the start of the global financial crisis. Conceptually, foreign banks may influence financial fragility in both positive and harmful ways (Levine, 1996). In terms of potential harms, foreign banks are often accused of stimulating capital flight. Thus, in stressful times, foreign banks will flee; may facilitate capital outflows, currency crises, and financial instability, which in turn can hurt the supply of credit by these affiliates in the host market. Contrasting arguments, however, suggest foreign bank activity may not intensify fragility may even enhance stability. It is important to realize that foreign banks can offer valuable diversification services and can absorb shocks occurring in the host market. Several studies have highlighted how foreign banks can enhance financial stability and improve economic growth when crises occur in the host country.

Planet Earth

While world powers are sleep walking on climate change, Ethiopia is doing her part

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Despite their global prowess and scientific knowledge and intelligence regarding the global menace of climate change, the big powers of the world have chosen to sit on the fence when their own countries are in grave dangers. They have almost forgotten their 100 billion USD they have pledged to support the less developed countries in their fight against climate change. Europe is facing the worst drought in the continent in 500 years. One third of Pakistan is being flooded. The US is grappling with storms in Florida and the adjacent states. Somalia is facing the worst drought ever. The worst part of the story is while politicians in the rich countries are busy with power politics while the very survival of their countries is at stake.

The issues of power rivalry among the big powers have gained greater prominence over the devastating effects of climate change. This is abnormal and extremely dangerous trend. The big powers are busy with other political issues and had shunned the urgent danger of climate change.

Deliberate negligence of hard scientific facts related to global warming and the urgent warnings from scientists the world over, world leaders are not heeding as if they have another planet to which they can transfer their zeal for global power rivalry. It is therefore not without reason that the UN Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez has recently delivered a stark warning on the issue of climate change and the foot dragging stance of the rich countries who are not up to their pledges.

The world is facing a global double jeopardy under the back drop of the threat from nuclear war. Many countries of the world, including the so called developed countries have still not fully recuperated from the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic.

Ethiopia is one of the 20 vulnerable countries seriously affected by climate change and the leadership of the country was well aware of the situation back in 2011 by coming up with A Climate Change Resilient Green Economy and Strategy which has set the cornerstone for the sustainable and carbon free economic development of the country. Why did Ethiopia choose this development policy and strategy for its national development program?

Some years have elapsed since Ethiopia has recognized the need to link development with environmental concerns. In 2011 the country launched a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) which charted out the foundation for integrated planning on climate-resilient green development in which Ethiopia aims to achieve middle-income status by 2025.

Ethiopia has found out that it cannot follow the old strategy of the previous regimes nor can it directly copy from the conventional development policies that the so called developed countries had followed. This

For Ethiopia the issue of tackling climate change in an integrated manner is not just a programmatic undertaking but a matter of survival for the nation

has already resulted in a sharp increase in greenhouse gas emissions and unreliable way of using the natural resources of the country. As a result of the recurrent drought and El-Nino/ La-Nina induced climate change, the nation had to subsequently grapple with a chaotic climate change situation which adversely affected the nation's development programs over more than four decades.

Ethiopia's economy is based on agriculture which is climate sensitive and is vulnerable to the slightest fluctuation of climatic conditions. It was therefore natural for Ethiopia to look for a sustained policy and strategy which would rescue the nation from the vicious circle of poverty. The merit of Ethiopia's CRGE strategy lies in the fact that it focuses on the use of the abundant natural resource endowments of the country.

Following the conventional development path has only, resulted in a sharp increases in greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable use of natural resources. The recurrent change of climate in Ethiopia forced the country revisit some of its most intractable problems so that the challenge faced positions Ethiopia at the forefront of the low carbon revolution promised by the climate agenda.

For Ethiopia the issue of tackling climate change in an integrated manner is not just a programmatic undertaking but a matter of survival for the nation. Prior to 1991, the nation's forest coverage was estimated only at 4 percent. Over the last two decades however, the country's forest coverage had grown to about 15 percent.

Apart from forest resources, For instance, the country has 12 river basin systems that it can use to generate carbon free and renewable energy resources. The nation has considerable geothermal (7,000 MW) and wind resources (1,350GW) yet to be

exploited. The solar energy resources of the country (2.199 million TWh/ annum) have so far not been touched. The diversity and the natural basis of the country's renewable energy resources provides Ethiopia with a comparative advantage of access to cheaper, clean and sustained energy sources.

In 2014, Ethiopia developed a country strategy document for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +). This was a comprehensive strategy "which will be implemented within Ethiopia's CRGE Strategy framework that sets out that by 2025, Ethiopia will become a middle-income country, resilient to climate change impacts and with a zero net increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over 2010 levels. REDD+ contributes to the achievement of the CRGE targets through improved management of forests and agricultural areas."(National REDD+ Strategy, 2014).With an estimated emissions reduction or carbon removals of 130 million tCO₂e annually, 50% of GHG emissions between 2010 and 2030 will happen as a result of implementing REDD+ process.

Embedded within the Green Growth strategy REDD+ is one of the four selected fast-track programs to support ambitions set in the forestry, energy and other land use sectors. Ethiopia considers REDD+ as an opportunity and viable source of sustainable finance for investment in sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and forest restoration to enhance multiple benefits of forests, including but not limited to biodiversity conservation, watershed management, increased resilience to climate change, improved livelihoods and reduced poverty.

The Government of Ethiopia submitted its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Idea Note (RPIN) to the World Bank-FCPF in 2008 which was successively approved in 2009, creating the way for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) from 2010 to 2012.

The FCPF Participants Committee decided to allocate grant funding of US \$3.4 million in March 2011 through its Resolution PC/8/2011/4, based on Ethiopia's submission of its R-PP. Ethiopia's request was approved by the FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) Participants Committee in February 2012 as per the Resolution PC/Electronic/2012/.

While these programs were going on, in 2019 Ethiopia embarked on a massive intuitive by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed entitled "National Green Legacy Initiative" in which 25 billion trees most of which are indigenous ones and fruit trees were planted all over the country. Despite her vulnerability to climate change and limited resources to curb it, the country relied upon its own resources and citizens to make the country the first in tree planting across the globe. In 2022, apart from planting billions of trees, the country managed to complete the third round of filling GERD and

generated 750MW of hydroelectric power from two units.

The other important initiative launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is what is called GebetaLehager. This is a fundraising initiative to finance three ultra-modern eco-tourism projects at Gorgora on Lake Tana, Koyisha in southern Ethiopia and Lake Wonchi area in Western Shoa Zone of Oromia. The significance of these three projects lies in the fact that they are not only contributing to the development of tourism industry in the country but also useful in arresting huge carbon emission cross the country.

It is to be stressed that the finance for all the above mentioned project comes from national resources and revenue generated from various sectors in the country. Ethiopia cannot afford to wait on donor agencies or the advanced countries to support these projects which will certainly contribute to massive reduction of the effects of climate change.

The entire program of curbing the effects of climate change in Ethiopia is conducted in the most participatory manner in which millions of Ethiopians and thousands of institutions, private and public owned companies have continued to contribute their share. On the other hand, these programs are conducted as a major means of employment for the youth.

As Ethiopia's vulnerability to climate change has become obvious, planting seedlings every year has become a regular national practice. However, lack of coordination and strategy on how to retain and develop the planted forest seedlings has become a shortfall that needs to be addressed on time. This is obvious because the rate of deforestation has always outpaced the intensity and level of afforestation programs.

The greening program underway in Ethiopia is also linked to the efforts that are being made to promote food security in the country but property utilizing forest resources both for income generation and acquisition of food.

The western countries are now heavily busy in involving into the internal affairs of the developing countries to expand their sphere of influence with no regard to the effects of climate change from which these countries are suffering. It is interesting to observe that every development issue raised by the developing countries is being assessed through the perspectives of the national interests of these countries.

While the less developed countries have not contributed to the negative effects of climate change, they are being forced to face these climatic effects with no meaningful support from the rich countries. Years have elapsed since the declaration of the 100 billion USD pledge but to date the promises have failed to materialize.

Despite the multifaceted challenges the country is forced to face, Ethiopia will continue to contribute her part in keeping at bay the effects of climate change.

Art & Culture

Modernizing and Africanizing traditions that date back to centuries

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

What else after the successful celebrations of *Irreechaa Finfine* and *Irreechaa Hora Arsed* last week? Maybe it is time to think about the tradition more seriously, more profoundly and more creatively. It may also be time to give it African dimension. According to recent data, *Irreechaa* was celebrated in this part of Africa for the last 12000 years, since what expert called "Cushitic times". It may also be the oldest tradition on the continent. Obviously *Irreechaa* was celebrated differently in different times and it cannot continue to be celebrated in the same way in the future.

There are now talks about modernizing *Irreechaa* or celebrating it in a modern way or in accordance with changing times so that it can respond to changing human needs and human aspirations. In the old times the main focus of *Irreechaa* might have been a prayer to the Creator so that nature provided its bounties to humans and the seasons change in accordance with the will of *Waqqa*. Even in the 20th century, *Irreechaa* has undergone profound changes. At one time or another it was used as a political tool to rally the Oromo people behind this or that interest. It was manipulated by the educated elites to advance their narrow political agendas.

All these attempts were nipped in the bud because they did not reflect the traditional wishes of the Oromo people who suffered and prayed to live in peace, and natural abundance. They prayed to *Waqqa* to protect them against all kinds of intruders, invaders and natural as well as human forces that tried to undermine, belittle or change traditional belief systems.

In the past, all traditional belief systems were undermined as "backward" superstitions that hinder modernization and refused to bend to so-called modern ideologies. Public celebrations were discouraged and attempt were made to confine it to the village levels. Yet, traditional beliefs could not be weakened let alone wiped out as the educated elites wished it. In the meantime *Irreechaa* and other traditional beliefs and rituals were consolidated instead of losing their appeals as the detractors wished. And now as the 21st century dawn, *Irreechaa* and similar popular beliefs and rituals emerged intact and continue to win more spiritual grounds and more followers as the new generations continue to uphold the practices of their forefathers without changing it. The wind of politics might blow in all directions but traditional practices remain as they were thousands of years back, without altering the fundamental rituals and by adding new dimensions that reflected the wishes and aspirations of the people. For that matter, all religions survived human attempts to suppress them simply because they are

based on immutable and divine principles while the detractors always lose ground or disappear without a trace.

Suffice it to observe this year's celebrations of *Irreechaa* in Addis Ababa or *Finfine* as the Oromo people call it, and in Bishoftu. More than 70 percent of the celebrants were no doubt young people in their twenties and thirties while elderly people are in the minority maybe because they could not travel long distances to come to the centers of the celebrations.

What was amazing about the young celebrants was the unprecedented enthusiasm, love and happiness they displayed everywhere they went chanting and dancing their traditional dances. This is another confirmation that traditions don't die with time but assume new and energetic dimensions thanks to the new generations that uphold the rituals of their forefathers in the belief that they too would reap the benefits of divine intervention, divine blessings and natural bounties.

Then what do we mean by modernizing *Irreechaa* rituals and traditions? *Irreechaa* is said to be the reflection or the cultural manifestation of the Gadda system that was the rule rather than the exception in the distant past. One of the pillars of the Gadda system is the age-based system of self-government or self-administration of the people by the people and for the people. It is one thing to celebrate *Irreechaa* with flamboyant sounds and colors and give it a "modern" dimension by playing music on people of powerful sound system. But this is not the only "modernization" trends of the *Irreechaa*.

What matters about *Irreechaa* is its day to day rules of living and interacting in accordance with the traditional Gaada system of self-rule based on hierarchies of age and gender. Women too are not excluded from *Irreechaa* celebrations and they have their gender-based rules and functions. *Irreechaa* does not confine women to the kitchen but brings them out into public view and allows them to play the role of mediators during prayer rituals to *Waqqa*. This is undoubtedly in line with any modern thought system, whether with democracy or otherwise that embraces women as important social actors and agents of transformations and up keepers of old traditions.

Many people believe that the economic dimensions of *Irreechaa* as a tourist attraction have not been fully exploited. That is true but *Irreechaa* goes beyond touristic or economic concerns. It is bigger, more profound and more significant than earning more hard currencies through tourism expansion although this is also a no

mean exercise. This year's celebrations of *Irreechaa* was remarkable for the dressing codes and the variety and diversity of the designs and styles of traditional clothing that were the main focus of the media and all those people who attended the events. The colors were bright, symbolizing the bright hopes that the New Year promises.

The variety of modern designs that were brought to the attention of the young celebrants in particular was formidable. In this sense the design and clothing industry should exploit the vast potentials of the *Irreechaa* dressing code offers to the industry and we may even hope that a special *Irreechaa* clothing industry would emerge in the future and influence the tastes of millions of youngsters who may abandon Western-style clothing and adopt traditional dressing styles that are cheaper, more meaningful, and most of all, come from their own history, tradition and ancestry.

As we said above, modernizing *Irreechaa* should not only help change the dress code of the Oromo people but also help them change their mentalities, in the young generation in particular. In addition to dressing code, *Irreechaa* should also elicit deep thinking into the meaning of self-reliance pride in traditional practices and the need for modernizing them without changing the core beliefs or core practices. It would also be important to look at the Gadda system and *Irreechaa* critically and purge what is contrary to the core belief of the system or any attempt to politicize it or use it as political tool by some members of the educated elite. Whether in executing the *Irreechaa* rituals or trying to adopt the positive aspects of the Gadda system, the ultimate authority should remain the Creator who is ruling over nature and taking care of His creations, as the people believe. Any attempt to give *Irreechaa* a secular or ideological interpretation or practice is bound to fail simply because it would contradict the core belief which is the main pillar of the tradition. Any attempt to codify the belief system or marry it with some other foreign religious interpretations would also be unpalatable and inadvisable because the people know and believe in one Creator and any attempt to dilute or mix it would be not only counterproductive but would also backfire as it did in the past. So, modernizing the Gadda and *Irreechaa* would boil down to preserving their core beliefs and developing what can be developed through consultation with the people at the village level instead of giving this responsibility to a few elite groups however well-educated they might be.

Educated people have the right and even the duty to do research or write about the Gadda system or *Irreechaa* in whatever

way they wish but their writings should be accessible to the very actors, the Oromo people, who should know and understand any modernizing attempts so that they could express wither their opposition or consent. An elite-driven modernization approach is bound to fail because the elite lack what the people have, namely wisdom, tolerance, insight earned through the accumulated experiences of many generations' elders. The Gadda system and *Irreechaa* which is its offshoot cannot be modernized or reformed through the unilateral efforts of colonialism by other means of educated people but with the participation of the elders and traditional leaders.

Western philosophy or Western thought in general undermined African traditional cultures and traditions deliberately sabotaged their potentials for growth or development that could lead to self-reliant system of beliefs and thoughts because of its colonial designs and projects in the past. Neocolonialism is the continuation of colonialism by other means and through the agency of so-called educated elites who bend to foreign diktat and machinations. As such the neocolonial attempts to dilute African traditional thoughts and practices would only be an attempt to help and abet the survival of colonial thinking in the new age and by other means.

In order to thwart such Western ideological plots and machinations, African government should institutionalize their traditional practices, beliefs and rituals by studying them seriously under special government agencies or institutions that would find the right solutions to the modern challenges of not only *Irreech* or the Gadda system but all the traditions and practices that are serving as weapons of spiritual survival by improving the technological or technical aspects of these practices. Modern technology does not impede old traditions but it is how the technology is used that is important. The advent of the mobile phone that has allowed millions of followers of traditional and cultural practices has allowed them to come together and celebrate these events by relaying messages of goodwill, love, and tolerance.

Western technology becomes anathema when it is used to relay messages of hate, ethnic bigotry, and conflicts. Even then, one cannot avoid technology for serving as a tool of evil communication. What one can do is to change the mentalities of the messengers from malevolence to benevolence, from wickedness to goodness. This is in fact the hardest part of modernizing traditional practices and belief systems in such a way that they serve people better without losing their original messages and founding spirits.

I have questions...?

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

What kind of life do I want
What kind of life do I need
Life has offered me what it can

But I can't make the most of it
I rarely listen to my heart
I say I want this and that
I am never fulfilled in life

I am an awful perfectionist
My ambition drove me nuts
I dream of it in days and nights
And if it ever comes true

I am sure it won't be enough too
I don't know where this hunger came from
My desire to be rich and known
I just make my life full of strife
Because I don't feel secure in life...

Society

Promoting religious tourism potentials

BY STAFF REPORTER

Gishen Mariam DebreKerbe Monastery, located 483 kilometers north of Addis Ababa in Ambassel Woreda, North Wollo Zone of the Amhara State, is one of the oldest, most sacred; and top pilgrimage sites in Ethiopia. The Monastery, which was built on the cross-shaped plateau in the 5th century by King Kaleb, is also the place where the original True Cross, on which Jesus was crucified, is buried underneath the church.

According to documents, Empress Helena burned incense and prayed for assistance to guide and indicate her to the direction where the Cross on which Jesus was crucified was hidden by the Jews. The smoke then led her towards the direction of the buried Cross. She dug and unearthed three crosses of which one of them was the True Cross used to crucify Jesus Christ. Empress Helena then gave a piece of the True Cross to all churches. This piece was then brought to Gishen DebreKerbe, Ethiopia.

For this reason, the Gishen DebreKerbe Monastery is one of the most sacred churches in the country that holds a voluminous book which records the story of the True Cross of Christ and how it was acquired.

Therefore, every year, devotees of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church from every corner, religious leaders, officials, domestic and foreign tourists from home and abroad, flock to Gishen Mariam DebreKerbe Monastery to celebrate the Gishen Mariam Festival.

Recently, as the Amhara State Culture and Tourism Bureau reported, the annual festival of St. Mary was celebrated colorfully and warmly in the presence of millions of people coming from all over the country, and even across the world.

In fact, in the past two years, the festival was not marked with large gatherings as before owing to the security challenges occurring in the State. However, last Saturday, on *Meskerem* 21 (October 1, 2022), the annual celebration of St. Mary was celebrated warmly and ecstatically in the presence of over a million domestic and foreign pilgrims inflowing to the sacred place. Those who were aspiring for long to see the place; but unable to do so in the past two years due to the problem, have had the chance to attend the festival and witness the mind-blowing religious and cultural sacraments.

Attending the festival of *Meskel* and St. Mary Holiday, Amhara State Culture and Tourism Bureau Head Tahir Mohammed said that the *Meskel* (The Finding of the True Cross) and the Gishen Mariam festivals are among the other annual rites that are celebrated in the State. Celebrating the *Meskel-Demera* rite which is one of the intangible heritages of Ethiopia inscribed by the UNESCO in the cross shaped Gishen DebreKerbe will create special vibe to the day.



What is more, in addition to preparing the mountain master plan, more work will be carried out in order to make Gishen DebreKerbe convenient, all year round tourist destination, instead of being a seasonal pilgrimage site in which visitors visit it once or twice a year only to celebrate a holiday.

South Wollo Zone Chief Administrator Abdu Hussien on his part said that Wollo, apart from being land of peace, love and tolerance, it is a place blessed with numerous tourist attractions. As to him, various activities are ongoing jointly to develop the heritages and benefit the local community.

“We should work in coordination to make the State a tourist destination by developing and promoting tourist attractions in the area,” he remarked.

Mentioning that the festivity of St. Mary holiday was observed peacefully and warmly in a manner preserving its religious values and practices for the reason that the surrounding area is peaceful, he urged the community to work in unison and safeguard the peace at all times. He also underscored the need to work in coordination regarding promoting and developing the State’s tourist potential to make it top tourist destinations.

Among the pilgrims taking part in the festival, Berhanu Yilma, who came from Debre Berhan Town, is the one. As he stated to local media, he is happy to witness the peaceful conclusion of the festival in a manner maintaining its religious tenacity.

Underlining the importance of creating a conducive and comfortable environment for the people visiting the area, he expressed his readiness to play his part in the effort.

Needless to say nowadays visiting sacred religious sites such as mosques, churches and the like for religious purposes has become a common trend that yields significant returns for hosting counties.

According to UNWTO, (2014) religious tourism is one of the most promising areas of tourism in the 21st century and can become the largest source of income and make a significant contribution to economic development.

Unquestionably, Gishen DebreKerbe Monastery and its vicinity have inimitable religious potentials that can draw millions of domestic and overseas visitors.

Due to this, developing tourist facilities and promoting the available heritages of the State can have substantial contributions to earn foreign exchange aside from improving the livelihoods of the surrounding community through creating job opportunities and enabling them to gain their own income.

To this effect, the active participation of the State’s Culture and Tourism Bureau, the Monastery, local community, the government as well as tourism stakeholders is of greater importance.

Developing tourist facilities and promoting the available heritages of the State can have substantial contributions to earn foreign exchange aside from improving the livelihoods of the surrounding community. . .

Gishen DebreKerbe, in addition to its religious importance, is a place graced with the most captivating and intriguing

landscape in the world. Its rough terrain and rocky steep landscape coupled with its historic, cultural, and natural blessings make the State preferable tourist destination. On top of its religious values, the site can grab the attention of global visitors because it is the best destination that embraces nature with religious and cultural attractions.

Unfortunately, absences of well-developed infrastructure, limitation in promoting the heritages and other challenges have hindered the community from benefitting the resources. However, currently the State is working aggressively to benefit the community through studying, identifying, developing and promoting the heritages. As part of this effort, it is planned to expand and improve the quality of infrastructure that are critical for tourism development to extend visitors’ stay at the place.

Photo – ENA

Law & Politics

Incumbent's unshakable determination for peace amid Terrorist TPLF's belligerence

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Peace has been the first priority of the Ethiopian government when dealing with the terrorist TPLF clique. From TPLF's northern command vicious attack on the northern command of the Ethiopian Defense Forces to events leading up to now, the incumbent has been consistent in its position to resolve TPLF's choice of war peacefully.

Despite criminal TPLF's ungrateful response, the government of Ethiopia more than ever before has been moving heaven and earth to beat swords into plowshares since the onset of the conflict.

The criminal enterprise sustained pouring cold water on the peace process under the veil of a wide spectrum of sham reasons and false propaganda. And, with the silence of the international community, the group continues to spoil peace initiatives and stoke violence.

Regardless of the government's unshakable yearning for peace, the criminal gang has been spoiling the peace efforts serving as political agent of some foreign entities.

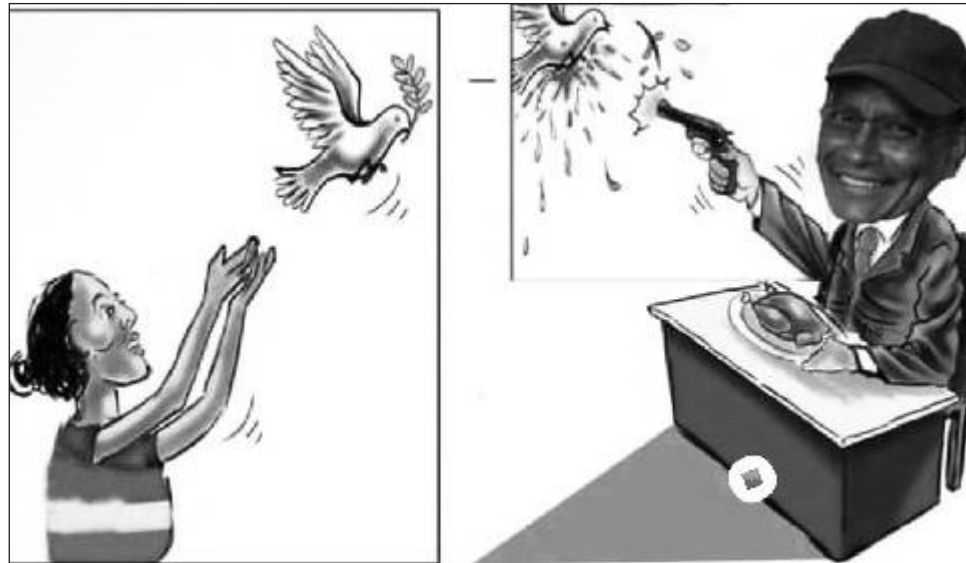
Failing to learn from the past blunders and brushing aside the peace talks, the illegal group has been launching fresh attacks in Amhara and Afar states. In consideration of the foregoing, the lives of noncombatants have been turning upside down. The sad thing is that as the group cannot survive in the absence of war, and without turning the lives of blameless civilians into chaos, it has been getting off the track and missing the envisioned target time and time again.

Notwithstanding with the fact that the disgruntled group sustained giving the cold shoulder to the unflinching stance of the government to make peace happen, the sought-after goal has not been attained yet.

For the sake of truth from allowing unfettered access to the Tigray State to establishing a peace committee, the incumbent has left no stone unturned to make peace happen and return the whole thing unfolding in the northern part of the country to normalcy.

Although the incumbent kept on extending an olive branch in many instances to ensure peace and tranquility, the ragtag group as usual has continued downplaying the proposed peace talks under the pretense fabricated lies. On top of that rather than coming to the negotiating table to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the group has been persistently downplaying the unflinching stance of the government to end hostilities and launching fresh attacks in the northern part of the country.

To pull to pieces and back the country into a corner, the group has continued rejecting the peace talks proposed by the incumbent. Though foreign entities, rights groups, low-rated media outlets, and some internal, as



well as external actors, know the reality on the ground, they do not want to stand up for the truth.

No matter how far the government trekked to bury the hatchet and ensure peace and instability, the rouge group has continued becoming an obstacle to the peace process. To everyone's dismay, the criminal organization in several instances prohibited the bold peace moves of the incumbent to make peace happen.

There is no question that in the face of the disgruntled group's continuous efforts to give a lower profile to the peace efforts, the incumbent has been working around the clock to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm.

In the same way, showing its disrespect to African principles and organizations, the frontrunners of the disgruntled group have been mystifying the wider international community with fictitious stories that do not reflect the situations on the ground.

The other thing is that rather than turning the tide and deescalating tensions by accepting the peace talks proposed by the government, the group has sustained upping the ante, moving the country into uncharted territory, and sowing the seeds of hatred and discord among the people of Ethiopia.

Despite the fact that the government of Ethiopia has been making every possible effort to make peace happen for the sake of ending hostilities, living in peace as well as harmony, the criminal group has been engaged in beating the drums of war and cutting the lives of the children of Tigray's mothers and fathers short. Albeit the government of Ethiopia has pulled out all the stops to acquaint the unvarnished truth with the global community, the desired goal has not been accomplished as a consequence of the evil deeds of the criminal enterprise and its stooges.

As some foreign entities have been taking sides confusingly with the terrorist TPLF group, they are not in the position to familiarize the international community with the positive moves of the incumbent to

come to terms. Dejectedly, they fail to give credit where credit is due by any means whatsoever. Albeit the federal government has jumped through hoops to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the desired goal has not been attained on the grounds that the outlaw gang kept on launching an attack.

In a similar vein, from establishing peace committee to engaging in positive developments that ensure the smooth progress of the peace talks, the government has come miles to find a peaceful solution to the existing problems.

Disappointedly, the incumbent's praiseworthy gesture has been unreturned by the criminal group that cannot survive in the absence of war and skirmishes. Although the government has been sparing no efforts to end hostilities making use of a wide spectrum of alternatives that can smooth the path of the peace talks, the group has sustained becoming a stumbling block to the peace process.

As the terrorist TPLF group has been leaning over backwards to wean itself from peace talks over and over again, the wider international community should put pressure on the group to come to the negotiating table.

So far, the rogue element has squandered chances to settle the conflict peacefully. It has in fact been rebuking the efforts of the AU and other concerned bodies through fabricated accusations and putting preconditions. The unlawful group has been playing down African institutions as it continues serving and implementing the interventionist policy of modern-day imperialists.

In contradiction, the federal government has been expressing its resolve to mend rifts and save the lives of civilians. It has been briefing diplomats and consulting with even-minded bodies to create positive environment for negotiation.

This week, The African Union has made invitation for peace talks amidst TPLF's continued belligerence.

Accepting the invitation, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said that AU's official invitation is consistent with the Ethiopian government's prior positions,

According to the statement, the government of Ethiopia remains committed to adopting all possible measures to resolve the conflict in a manner that ensures lasting peace and territorial integrity of the country and would continue upholding this commitment.

In his twitter message, Redwan Hussien, Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, on his part noted that the invitation is in line with our principled position regarding the peaceful resolution of the conflict and the need to have talks without preconditions.

It is to be noted that Ethiopia has been showing its readiness for peace talks under the auspices of the African Union without any preconditions and to talk anytime, anywhere, and also to resolve all problems throughout the country peacefully as conflicts lead to failure and destruction. In this regard, the government of Ethiopia formed a committee that has seven members, led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

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 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.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

“The Devil Never Sleeps!”

American commentator Andrei Codrescu has this book titled, “The Devil Never Sleeps” What a wonderful title! In the case of our country the devil, coming in the guise of researchers, professors, or whatever, never sleeps!

The EP, EU etc.

The body they call ‘The European Parliament,’ once again, has passed some resolution AGAINST Ethiopia. No need for specifics since they lead to one and one goal, drive Ethiopia to its knees. What this particular entity has against Ethiopia remains a mystery, though we aren’t short of credible speculations. You don’t necessarily have to eavesdrop on the back door shenanigans of such entities to make informed guess, informed by action, and repeated action at that!

The Ethiopian Mission EU puts it in no uncertain terms; “We express deep regrets about the latest resolution on Ethiopia adopted by the European Parliament today. The resolution has once again failed to recognize the misery of millions of people caused by the belligerence of the #TPLF in Afar and Amhara.”

Just for the sake of general knowledge, shouldn’t this body, whatever its real mandates concerning Africa are, be more worried about the escalating situation in the Ukraine-Russia war! Isn’t the very survival of their entire continent and also the whole world at stake! And they waste paper and breathe penning another round of resolutions against a proud nation like Ethiopia!

The following is supposedly part of a speech by a top EU official; “The European Union will present a resolution at the Human Rights Council renewing the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia to allow for further comprehensive, independent and transparent investigations and accountability mechanisms to complement national efforts.” A simple question but this commission has been discredited not only by Ethiopians but by absolutely neutral observers. The lady at the helm who went as far as cancelling her tweets has been exposed for what she was...a sympathizer of the group which has been designated as terrorists by the Ethiopian parliament. And now they plan to renew its mandate?

In the same piece this also appears “The European Union does not forget the people of Tigray and those suffering from this man-made crisis. Two years have passed since the start of the conflict. There is no more time to lose.” A simple question, what about the hundreds of thousands in Amhara and Afar regions who have been suffering the most atrocious of abuses? Don’t they fulfill the ‘criteria’ to be named? Even in the recent war tens of thousands of Amharas have been displaced summarily executed, raped, abducted under the very eyes of the world and “those” is the only term that comes to mind! In fact does the term “those” really relate to them? Sad!

But then when it comes to affairs of Ethiopia ‘the devil never sleeps!’

Permanent mission of Ethiopia in Geneva tweeted; “Today among the list of drafts received by the secretariat at the UNHRC,

there is Res. A/HRC/51/L.19 sponsored by the EU requesting the renewal of the mandate of the ICHREE. Ethiopia rejects it and requests members of the Council to vote against this political venture.” Yes, it has to be rejected because it is just that, a political venture.

Sometimes you wonder how that part of the world works; they have on their one the most dangerous war to the existing world order with the Ukraine-Russia war and what they only can do is harass, intimidate and play the card which sometimes looks like the replica of the colonial time Berlin! The world is already talking about a possible nuke showdown and leaders are threatening each other of Armageddon and all they can do is train their prejudiced and probably on the part of quiet a number of them their racists guns on whom they conclude are the weak and the defenseless.

Prominent politician Neamin Zeleke tweets; “Since Nov 2020, EU has shielded #TPLF’s crimes. Unwilling & unable to admit the devastation, horror & terror committed in Afar, Amhara by bestial #TPLF. Despite #TPLF’s 3rd round aggression #EU still bent on heaping blame on the victim. Travesty!”

Here is another reaction, “The EU is selling weapons in one hand and brokering peace in the other. I don’t remember Ethiopia being an EU member. EU hates Ethiopia and black people in general. I don’t even believe most members of parliament read the resolution.”

The Plauts, the Abdis and the Whole Ethiopia-Bashing Gang!

Then there is the person they call Martin Plaut, a name which seems to have become a household name for all the wrong reasons and most of all for proving that ‘the devil never sleeps.’ He just can’t keep silent when it comes to Ethiopian issue, does he? For one reason or another, his hatred for Ethiopia and Ethiopians makes him the personification of hate. While the news is that finally there were to be negotiations what does he do? He tweets some so-called ‘news’ item which is more than two years old,

It’d have been easy to use terms like “Astounding” as to the reactions of some parties. All who are seeking the best outcome for the entire country and the Plaut gentleman tweets a news item more than two years back. An item by Reuter news agency claiming the Ethiopian government didn’t want African mediation. Isn’t that somehow sly?

I’m not one very fond of conspiracy theories. But there is nothing conspiratorial to suggest that the person seems to be on the losing side because of the scheduled talks. We’re not talking about comes here. We’re talking about the very fact that negotiations are to be held. How can that strain the nerves of those who claim to wish good for the country and the region.

Here is a real angry reply to the person’s tweet. “Martin Plaut has lost hair & face trying to defend the indefensible. He will continue losing until nothing of him remains.”

What really is the problem with that particular fellow; Or, and this had to be raised sooner or later, is there something we don’t know that is practically arm-twisting him to play the loyal second-fiddler? Just musing!

An AU press release carries this wonderful sentence; “The Chairperson wishes to inform that the peace talks will be conducted through a high level panel of eminent Africans, established purposefully for the Ethiopian peace process.” “...a high level panel of eminent Africans...” isn’t that music for the ears? Music the Palut’s of the world want to splash cold water upon. It is one sign that Africans are saying, “It’s our problem. We’ll deal with it our own ways.”

Thanks, someone warned in a reply tweet; “Careful everyone! Martin, a known TPLF shill, is presenting this article written on NOVEMBER 21, 2020, as if this is the current position of the government. That is completely out of context and very unfair to the thousands of Ethiopians dying because of this conflict.”

Another “He obviously wants to start with what it seems current info, and then thwarts to reminding us about the past. Wicked thing to do when the world is looking for the end of this conflict. We just cannot take a chance on any misinformation that confuses the world.”

Yes that’s wicked as wicked comes. Imagine those who fail to see the date of the ‘news’ item! After all that has been going for the past weeks and days trying to push in the wrong narrative into the international community’s psyche is the crudest anyone can be; even the sworn enemies of this country who seem to have taken up the cause of some of their forefathers who tried everything within their powers to put it down. But failed drastically, over and again! can me.

“You’re really the expert on how to disseminate disinformation and fake news... How much does this kind of job pay? I’m sincerely curious to know.”

But then someone of fished out something the Plaut person wrote years back and, maybe, just maybe, it could help to send light, at least partially, on his motives. This was what he wrote; “The greatest day of my life! After interviewing PM Meles Zenawi for the first time, we discussed matters relating to the Horn in great detail. It wasn’t too long after this that I swore allegiance to the TPLF. The Horn of Africa is yearning for his leadership now more than ever before.”

And good old Rashid Abdi couldn’t just sit silent, running his mouth over anything and everything he thinks will make Ethiopia appear the bad boy on the block! Maybe out of Ethiopian bashing ideas he mentions a purely personal opinion and tries to make it sound official stance; “Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed’s spiritual advisor Deacon Daniel Kibret, a clergyman, warns that Tigrayan negotiators will not return safe from South Africa in a tweet. Tigrayans are incensed such thuggish behavior is encouraged and sanctioned by a state.”

Whatever Deacon Daniel’s place in the gov’t, as an Ethiopian citizen he has every right to voice his personal opinions any which way he thinks is convenient. There is nothing in the piece top suggested he’s voicing gov’t positions. “...Tigrayans are incensed such thuggish behavior is encouraged and sanctioned by a state!” Really! ‘...encouraged and sanctioned by a state!’ But the Abdi fellow has to say something that belittles the gov’t and by extension the country. By the way

about that forensic thing he was dawdling about in one tweet, does it do anything to detoxify a hate-filled mind! The world being strangest that it has ever been you can’t rule out anything!

A Somali citizen tweets; “In Somalia, we call people like Rashid Abdi as TPLF orphans. They don’t care about peace or the wellbeing of the Ethiopia or Somali peoples. They care about their connections with the TPLF murderers.”

The person Kjetil Tronvoll and someone named Nic Cheeseman had this section in one lengthy article; “It is no surprise international peace mediation failed and active warfare between Ethiopian federal forces and their allies against the Tigray regional forces has resumed.” What the hell does “...their allies...” mean. Of course they are trying to paint the Amhara Special Forces, militia and Fano forces and also the Afar Special Forces and militia as “allies.” All are fighting for their country you hopelessly racist dudes! When you see the Tronvoll fellow is professor of peace and conflict studies at some university you stop wandering why this world has become such a messy place.

All said we only hope that something will come out from the negotiations. That’s what all Ethiopians hope for and dream about. But one thing is sure; whatever the outcome ‘the devil never sleeps’ when it comes to give Ethiopia and Ethiopians a bad face. They’ll fail!

Heritage what!

Someone in the so-called Heritage Foundation tweeted; “Pleased to have hosted on Friday Gen. Tsadkan Gebretensae, member of the Government of Tigray (GoT) Central Command and, for decades, one of Ethiopia’s most influential military strategists. He is currently an architect of the Tigrayan Defense Forces’ campaigns.”

Seeing what is unfolding on the various fronts no one in their right mind want to be called ‘architect of this mayhem! Well what can anyone do in a world so messed up that truth seems to have become suggestive and truth for this heritage whatever is to show a back-broken Ethiopia; “a pipe dream!” as mentioned in the following tweet:

“Excellent public admission of how z Heritage Foundation is a propagandist to entities out to dismantle Ethiopia - a pipe dream! None of u had z decency to ask about z carnage and massacre caused by TPLF’s marauding gang in Afar/Amhara regions or the theft of humanitarian assets.”

Bonus! You Might Call it That!

An active tweeter user tweets; “According to credible sources, Egypt’s and Sudan’s senior military & security chiefs met in Cairo this month and discussed the possibility of rescuing the #TPLF. Interestingly, #Rwanda has joined this plot! All three countries have taken d/t missions and are on action!”

While the bit of info might demand deeper investigation, at least, we’re sure two countries are more or less directly involved in the conflict not only in the northern parts but elsewhere in the country too.

In those circles too one thing is sure; ‘The devil never sleeps!’

In Pictures

Muslim followers celebrate 1,497th Mawlid in all parts of Ethiopia

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

The celebration was colorfully celebrated in the tourism towns and environs of Addis Ababa, Harar, Jimma and Gondar where an ancient and historical values standing for unity.

Minister of Culture and Sports Kejela Merdasa, who attended at the Anwar Mosque where the festival was celebrated in Addis Ababa said that Prophet Mohammad was kind, compassionate and fought for human beings to live justly.

He further mentioned that the Prophet was also more compassionate to animals and plants.

When the Muslim people celebrate Mawlid, it should be to strengthen the values of solidarity and help the needy parties, Chairman of the Ulema Council of Gondar, Sheik Ibrahim Mohammad, urged.

He mentioned that Muslims and Christians are religions that have built the values of solidarity that have lasted for centuries, but the two faiths discussed and resolved the conflict under the guise of religion and said that they were able to maintain the unity again.

The chairperson also emphasized that when the great festival of Prophet Mohammad is

celebrated, it should be done by loving and respecting each other, by helping and helping those who are not.

Deputy Mayor of Gondar, Bayu Abuhay, thanked the Muslim community for the good work done to make Gondar a city of religious tolerance, solidarity and unity.

The festival has been celebrated in the city of Harar and many followers of Islam have devoted to remember the Prophet by praising and doing the good things he did.

At the same time, Mawlid is being celebrated in Jami Al Kabir Mosque in Gondar City.

The festival is being celebrated in Jimma City, Oromia regional state at Madretul Khairya school which is one of the institutions that expansion of Islamic education and was established in 1942. The Muslim community of Jimma was also present at the ceremony and various songs praising the Prophet Mohammed were performed by the youth.

At the same time, the festival was celebrated in Asosa town of Benishangul-Gumuz regional state with various ceremonies. At Al-Hilal Mosque in Asosa City, the festival was being celebrated with various Shishdas, Manzuma and other ceremonies.

In addition, the festival is being celebrated in Albko District, Jema King Mosque in the South Wolo Zone of Amhara regional state.



Addis Ababa



Addis Ababa



Addis Ababa



Harar



Gondar

