

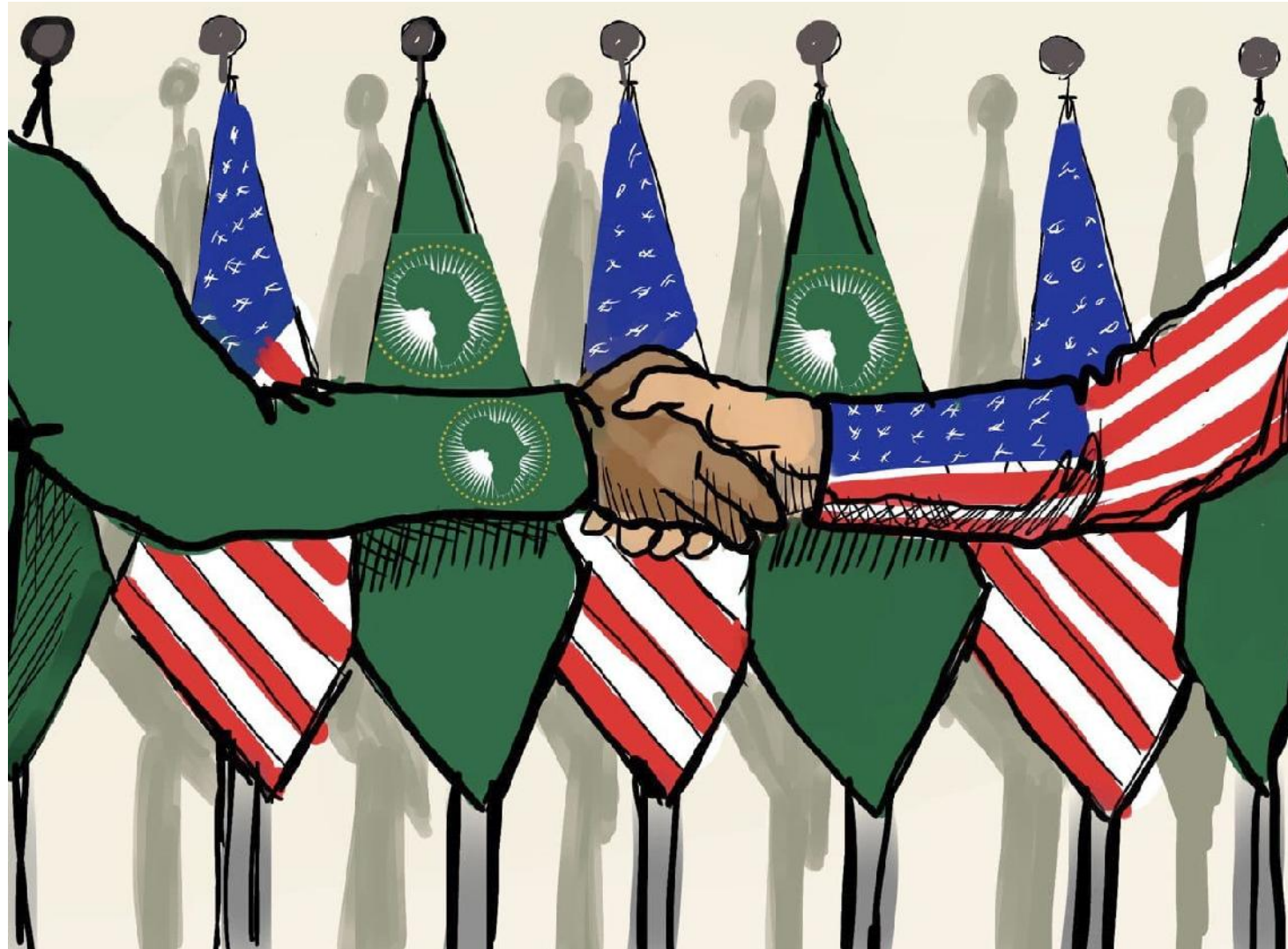


# The Ethiopian Herald

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Page 3

## UAE remains Ethiopia's key dev't partner: MoFA

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the Ethiopia-United Arab Emirates (UAE) bilateral relations are being consolidated and the Emirates has remained the former's key development partner by financing several projects.

During his opening remark at the 51<sup>st</sup> National Day Anniversary of the UAE here yesterday, the Middle East, Asia and Pacific Affairs Director-General at MoFA Gebeyehu Ganga stated that the two countries have enjoyed a thriving relationship.

While the political and diplomatic cooperation between Ethiopia and the UAE is steadily progressing, their economic and people-to-people ties have also boomed after the Emirates opened its embassy in Addis Ababa in 2010.

Noting the political will of the Ethiopian government to enhance the multifaceted relations with the UAE, the director stressed the necessity of the two countries' collaboration to ensure peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region.

In the economic frontier, among the Gulf countries, the UAE is the second largest



trade and investment partner of Ethiopia. Gebeyehu called on Emirati companies to invest in Ethiopia, affirming the commitment of the government to extend support to their endeavors.

In his remark at the occasion, the UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia Mohamed Salem Al Rashedi said his country is eager to boost its relations with Ethiopia in social, economic and political spheres. "The long-

lasting relation of the two countries is growing from time to time."

The ambassador further pointed out that Ethiopia's geographical proximity to the Middle East and UAE's enormous potential for FDI makes the countries ideal partners for doing business. "My country needs to consolidate the diplomatic relations

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**U.S. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. | 2022

## Expert anticipates policy shift in U.S.-Africa Summit

• Committee makes appeal to similar cause

BY TAMERU REGASA & YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - The U.S. is expected to pursue a more constructive approach and utilize the upcoming U.S.-African Leaders Summit as a good opportunity for strengthening its partnership with the continent, an expert in the area said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Political Science and International Studies Assistant Professor Yayew Genet noted that successive U.S. governments have evidently interfered in the internal affairs of African countries and undermined the role

See Expert... page 4



# News



Prof. Mohamed Hassan

## Tripartite alliance safeguard of Horn's peace: *Expert*

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The tripartite alliance signed between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia will significantly strengthen the unity and cooperation of the Horn of African countries and ensure lasting peace and collective benefit in the region, according to an expert closer to the issue.

Horn of Africa Expert Prof. Mohamed Hassan said that the tripartite alliance is a goodwill agreement that is instrumental to bring peace and stability in the turbulent region and beyond. It is the starting point of a new journey towards avoiding antagonism between countries and move forward to ensuring collective benefits.

"Once the agreement is materialized and stronger, it can also include other countries in the region so as to build a common road towards development and it is all about avoiding the past problems."

According to him, the biggest problem is that it is not the state itself which is engineering the conflict and the external forces want the conflict for achieving their interest in the region and beyond. Even the media are also broadcasting fake news continuously which is part of exerting pressure on the continent.

"Some interest groups use problems as getaways to intervene in the internal affairs of any given country, supporting one against the others. The main objective of the agreement is avoiding such kinds of problems and enhancing peaceful coexistence among nations."

Prof. Mohamed noted that the external forces are frightened of the agreement as it enhances peace and stability, creates an atmosphere of confidence and ensures collective economic growth in the region along with other benefits. "For the past many years external forces use divide and rule systems, intervene, and support one against others merely to make the region dependent."

Huge natural resource potential coupled with the geographical situation of the region is a source of interest by global powers and they are trying to pull back the reform process in the region merely to protect their interest in the area, the expert elaborated.

# IGAD underpins peace, security schemes in HoA for 2023

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - Augmenting peace and security across the Horn of Africa (HoA) will be top priority for Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) in 2023 as terrorism and insecurity are still challenging the region, IGAD Executive Secretary said.

In his interview with local media, the Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) said that member states of IGAD have been creating supportive political environment to restore peace and security.

He, thus, further said that IGAD would extend its usual effort of conciliating political disputes among and within countries.

Moreover, IGAD has planned to work on climate and environmental issues in the coming new year. "We will have teamwork down from all member states in a bid to work against migration and drought. We have promising preconditions to this end," he said.

Workneh on the occasion called on the member states to enhance cooperation in all aspects aiming at effectively implementing the 2021-2025 strategy of IGAD.



Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD)

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary has acknowledged the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed by the government of Ethiopia and TPLF and the national reconciliation agreement of Sudanese government and rebel groups.

Since violence in the Upper Nile region remains a matter of deep concern, IGAD

calls for ceasing hostilities.

"We take note of the threat to peace, prosperity and development posed by violent extremist groups whose operations have been expanding over the last year. IGAD condemns all acts of terrorism and urges the youth of our region to resist being lured into these groups," he said.

# Renowned entrepreneur stresses expanding market access to green products

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The recycled products in making use footwear have been successful but these green products are facing challenges in terms of gaining international market access for various reasons, said a famous entrepreneur.

During World Assembly of Women (WAW!2022) in Japan recently, Soul Rebel Founder Betelhem Tilahun further said that products from recycled products have been proven successful on several occasions but there are no enough market for green products despite continued efforts of promoting them on available media platforms across the world.

According to Betelhem, producing green product is very costly and needs support from all global financial organizations.

"The other challenge is handmade products have been a little bit challenge for me to scale up my business because



Betelhem Tilahun

of different challenges. The challenges that we face is to get an affordable finance and an impact investment from everywhere."

She also pointed out that cost of living is skyrocketing in Africa and so green production methods have been face serious challenge in this end.

"And it has been a challenge for us to be able penetrates the market for a long time particularly now with COVID-19 and what is going on with product development and also logistics have been very difficult for a company who works with recycled products."

As to her, for the next five to ten years, she wants to focus on agriculture and to support women in agriculture.

Betelhem Tilahun is an Ethiopian Businesswoman and she is manufacturing footwear from recycled products. She has been in manufacturing sector over 14 years. The footwear from recycled products and delivered to all over the world and Japan seems to be one of her destination and she was able to open a store in Tokyo with her partners for a long time.

Betelhem's company has employed about 700 workers.

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General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

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### Advertisement and Dist. Department

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

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

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

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)

email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Editorial

## Henceforth frank approaches win in the acid test of relations with Africa

Africa is blessed with abundant natural resources, trade potentials, young population, growing economy, geopolitical advantage and rosy future, among others.

Therefore, there is no gainsaying foraging a healthy relation with Africa is beneficial to actors on both ends of the scale.

In cognizance of the aforementioned merits and the perks that could accrue from such chemistry with Africa, many superpowers are craning their neck towards Africa widening the continent's partnership chance thereby bolstering its capacity of knowing the chalk from the cheese as well as separating the seed from the chaff in its multifaceted endeavors of kissing underdevelopment goodbye down the road.

But the relationship superpowers want to strike up with Africa must be based on a genuine support that does not compel the continent into dependency syndrome that subjects it to strings attached to loan and aid.

Africa must not be reduced to a sheer recipient of diktats. Such a trend creating a room of arm twisting by superpowers hijacks the continent's desire to shape its future in a way that fits the bill.

Lessons drawn from wrong turns must be set prerequisites in coming up with a right choice. Africa should not be taken a sacrificial lamb or a pushover to meet one-sided objectives of super powers. A political whip must not drive a spoke in the development wheels of Africa. Here, it suffices to mention how African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) was used as a political whip to derail the development of Ethiopia that set a foot ahead on the road of growth.

A win-win or a string-free relationship is a befitting one for Africa.

Partners must not hide their true colors till they are told to respect "African solutions to African problems." For enduring peace as well as sustainable and mutual-growth such an approach proves viable.

The globe is dragging its last leg from the uni-world order into a multi-world one demonstrating it is only the frank ones that will emerge with flying colors in the acid test of the aforementioned relationship.

It is against this back drop the Africa-US relation should be viewed and rectified.

A US-African summit is due to be held. African leaders must influence the US government about the right way to do that. In clear terms the leaders have to tell the latter "African-US policy begs for overhaul. US better cut a big brother kind of relationship. Africa is advocating business-to-business relationship based on mutual respect. That has to be upheld. Otherwise, the summit's goal would be a pipedream. US' policy on Africa clamors for a radical change, which is long overdue."

Hence US has to adopt a US-African policy that synchronizes with the 21<sup>st</sup> century mindset. Tarrying could force it to run out of charm and cede place to emerging super powers coming up with win-win approaches which could be easily embraced by Africa. It must not be forgotten the time is one marked by red-hot competition.

African-Americans that contributed bricks for the prosperity of US are expected to play due role in the amendment of US policy pertaining to Africa. Ethiopian-American elites must prevail on current leaders of US to see to reasons and embrace it back in AGOA.

Also, here the crucial role Africa could play in fighting out terrorism that has tentacles at global scale must not be forgotten. Thus, backscratching with Africa is a task US could ill afford to put on the backburner. As instance it suffices here to mention the role Ethiopia played in emasculating Al-Shabab.

Focusing on the education of African young population and technology transfer are seen better support options from a genuine partner.

## Opinion

### The need to make U.S.-Africa ties a relation among equal

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Africa's role in the global politics is growing rapidly and the continent is becoming a significant actor in the global politics and economy. Scholars are predicting that Africa will shape the future of the world and will become a major difference maker in solving world's challenges. The continent's riches in natural resources and its ever-growing population are world's potential future development accelerators.

Even today, world's factories depend on African raw materials for their inputs. Africa's export is mainly raw material, precious mines and other natural resources which are critical for the development of the world manufacturing sector. Directly and indirectly, African resources are basic sources of world's factories raw-material inputs and this indirectly means Africa is source of job opportunities and market products for the rest of the world.

Though, Africa is feeding the world basic inputs, the continent remains "the poorest continent". World's superpowers have special connections with Africa, but so far the relation mostly is a boss-

subordinate relation than a win-win approach based on shared values. Now a day, countries of the world are looking to strengthen friendship and diplomatic relations with the African continent and we are experiencing new developments in this regard.

Multi-polarity of world's political order is making Africa the most preferable continent for both the superpowers and newly growing powers of world actors with its principled and unwavering diplomatic stance. The Africa-U.S., Africa-Russia, Africa-China and Africa-Turkiye cooperation are few examples to demonstrate the extent to which Africa is getting new attention in this regard. In almost all relations, Africa is the servant and the relations are dominated by the other actors.

Africa and United States have historic relations and growing from time to time. But, the U.S.-Africa relation is not an exception to be blamed as a boss-servant relation. No one can deny U.S.'s role in donating African development programs and providing aid, but still, the relation faces huge critics especially in economic and political relations. It is a U.S. dominated relationship and needs reform

to make it a win-win approach to further and forward the historic relation as the world is advancing to new system.

U.S.-Africa relation must withdraw from a boss-servant relationship and should focus on shared values for common development. It is obvious; U.S.-Africa relation is deep, historic and strong and needs no further investment to develop the relation. But, the relation must not focus on providing some form of aid or donation to Africa from the other side. It should focus on building sustainable mutual development based on win-win principle. The relation should not be top-down, it should be parallel and between equals.

From December 13-15, 2022, Washington is preparing to host the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit and African leaders are expected to gather in Washington to attend the summit. This summit must focus in shaping the future relations of Africa and the U.S. if both parties are ready to heighten the relation in all sectors. Africa needs true friend for its development, not an aid provider that perpetuates the continent's poverty. Africa's true friends must focus on supporting Africa to accelerate its development endeavors.

This time, becoming major aid provider is not enough; it is time to work together for mutual development. Africa needs not only aid, it needs development and African friends' supports must focus on supporting African development activities, democratization process and other continental actions. Developed Africa would become world's blessing and becoming a true friend for developed Africa would benefit both sides. Hence, for true friends of Africa, like the U.S., it is important to support Africa's journey to development and this would make them "friends in need" and establish lasting friendship.

The current U.S.-Africa summit must reshape Africa-U.S. relation to make this historic and strong relation more successful. The strong relation of U.S.-Africa must not be open for critics and the two parties should work in making the relation an exemplary relation of win-win without intervening in the internal affairs of each-other. The current summit should open a new chapter in U.S.-Africa relation.

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



# News



## ECA webinar highlights role of city GDP estimation for Africa's productivity

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** - A webinar, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), has underlined the vital role of measuring city GDP in enabling policymakers to take necessary steps towards maximizing economic productivity and performance at the city and subnational level.

Government officials, data scientists, national accounts experts, urbanization specialists and development professionals from across Africa have participated in the webinar, according to ECA.

The objective was to raise awareness of and exchange experiences on compiling city GDP (Gross Domestic Product), including the challenges faced by different countries in the process and various ways to overcome them.

Speaking at the webinar, Edlam Yemeru, ECA's Director for the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, said Africa is undergoing a rapid urban transition and half of its population will be living in cities by 2030.

This transition is not just demographic, she added, but also has major economic implications, given that economic activities are concentrated in cities, thereby accounting for a large share of Africa's combined GDP.

"To ensure urban transition leads to maximum productivity, Africa needs to plan and manage its cities more effectively. This requires having disaggregated data at the city level to inform policymaking and resource allocation that contribute to inclusive economic growth, especially for job creation, poverty reduction, affordable housing, green infrastructure and quality social services," she elaborated.

Against this background, she told the delegates that ECA launched an initiative in 2021 to support six African cities – Accra, Harare, Kigali, Lusaka, Maseru and Yaoundé – in measuring their city GDP and their contribution to the national economies.

The insights, lessons and good practices from the initiative were shared with the delegates during the webinar.

In particular, delegates learned that the six

pilot cities represent 34 to 50 percent of their respective country's GDPs, which further highlighted the critical need for measuring sub-national statistics to inform evidence-based urban planning, policymaking and investment.

"We would like to expand this initiative to other countries in Africa," Edlam Yemeru said.

"However, this requires strong partnership across all levels of government to institutionalize city GDP estimation. Doing so will strengthen the evidence base for policy action to translate Africa's urban growth into Africa's inclusive economic growth. At ECA, we plan to scale up our efforts in this regard."

During the webinar, delegates appreciated the relevance of the initiative and made proposals for expanding it to other cities in Africa.

They further underlined the value of a regional guideline on city GDP estimation which ECA will be developing.

## Expert anticipates...

of sovereign governments.

The academic further stressed that the U.S. needs to capitalize on the summit to transform its relations with Africa that are built on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic matters of sovereign states. The U.S. aggressive establishment of military bases in Africa is also something worth consideration as the move doesn't play a constructive role for the peace and stability of the continent.

"Not only political engagement, the U.S. economic relations with Africa deserve revisions and the latter is expected to make meaningful investment in the continent. The summit may help the U.S. to be encouraged to allot substantial business in Africa that could compete with the business portfolios of emerging powers."

By the same token, the American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) has called on the U.S. government to review its policy approach towards Africa and to strive for the establishment of cordial relationships.

While commenting on the issue to *The Ethiopian Herald*, AEPAC Chairperson Mesfin Tegenu stated that the U.S. has been pursuing an outdated policy that harms its relation with the African continent. "Still, the U.S. does not regard African countries as development partners and it has been observing them as mere aid and command recipients, which is improper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

The chairperson also urged the U.S. government to follow a policy that is based on acknowledging and respecting the sovereignty of African countries and not meddling in their internal affairs. By the same token, the U.S. businesses should shun the outdated thoughts and make a meaningful involvement in Africa's market.

Heads of state and leaders from across the African continent will from 13 to 15 December 2022, converge in Washington D.C., within the context of the U.S. - Africa Leaders' Summit hosted by President Joseph R. Biden.

According to the organizers, the summit aims to serve as a demonstration of the Biden Administration's commitment to the African continent and provide a forum for new joint initiatives between the U.S. and countries in Africa. According to senior White House officials, approximately 50 heads of state and senior government officials from African countries are expected to attend the summit.

## UAE remains...

with Ethiopia in the trade and economic frontiers."

It was learned that there is a growing desire among UAE investors to do business in Ethiopia and the establishments of the

Ethio-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission and Dubai Chamber of Commerce International Office has helped to facilitate this.

The UAE was formed on December 2,

1971 as a federation of six emirates when the UK's treaty expired and the separate sheikdoms namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman, Sharjah, and Umm al-Qaiwain decided to form the Union. Ras al-Khaimah joined the Union later, in early 1972.



# Opinion

Photo credit: Akorda.kz



## Dialog, cooperation are basis for peaceful coexistence, development

BY EDITORIAL OF EH

In less than a month, Ethiopia will celebrate the national holiday of Christmas. Ethiopia is known all over the world for its ancient Christian traditions dating back to the 4th century AD. Moreover, Ethiopia has always been famous for the peaceful coexistence of various religions, including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Since ancient times, religions in Ethiopia have promoted the development of dialogue between different ethnic groups, uniting the people of Ethiopia to solve common problems. Currently, the Inter Religious Council of Ethiopia is working to maintain peace and development in order to make Ethiopia more tolerant and peaceful.

There are not many similar examples in the modern world when peaceful coexistence of religions and political will are used as a platform for dialogue in order to preserve peace, security and development of the state. There are even fewer examples when countries use their multi-faith and multi-ethnicity to promote the philosophy of peace and dialogue in the international arena.

One of such rare examples in modern international relations is apparently Kazakhstan, the most remote from the open sea and the largest Land Locked country, which gained its independence in 1991. There are more than 130 nationalities and about 30 religious denominations in Kazakhstan, so far there have been no clashes on ethnic or religious grounds in this young but dynamically developing Republic. Let's

take a look at Kazakhstan and this aspect of its international policy more closely.

In Kazakhstan most of people believe that to counter today's challenges there is only one answer – good will, dialogue and cooperation. Kazakh experts have always favoured solving any disputes exclusively at the negotiating table in the spirit of the UN Charter.

Speaking at the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, for example, the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized the importance of observing the fundamental tenets underlying the UN. In particular, he pointed out the need to rethink the relationship between the three primordial principles – the sovereign equality of states, the territorial integrity of states and peaceful coexistence between states.

“These three principles are inter-dependent. To respect one is to respect the other two. To undermine one is to undermine the other two. When the global disarmament regime – both conventional and nuclear – weakens, these three principles are threatened. Conversely, as these three principles are respected, they grow in strength. Together they become the basis for greater inter-state cooperation at every level: sub-regional, regional, and global. This is the global prosperity dividend. This system of values, embodied in the UN, remains a beacon of hope for millions of people in different parts of our planet”, - he stated.

Tokayev urged to resolutely defend these values, putting the UN as its core, as well as the spirit of cooperation which underpins it.

This Young Central Asian country continues to contribute to regional and international peace and security and development through active participation in the work of international and regional organizations, promoting confidence building measures and inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue.

In accordance with experts' opinion, Astana stands ready to cooperate with all relevant actors in a spirit of inclusiveness, multilateralism and goodwill. Modern challenges can be overcome by countries acting together. There is a need to move from simply responding to global challenges and crises to preventing and better predicting emerging trends. For this very purpose, Kazakhstan proposed 30 years ago the idea of convening the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). Today, the CICA consists of 28 countries and is not only a political platform, but also has financial, economic, transport, youth dimensions of cooperation. The historical CICA Summit, which took place in Kazakhstan on 14-15 of October 2022, declared CICA to be transformed into full-fledged organization.

This country believes that the role of spiritual leaders in bringing peace through dialogue is of paramount importance. That is why Kazakhstan organizes Congresses of leaders of world and traditional religions.

So far, seven Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions have been held in Kazakhstan since 2003. The goals and objectives of the Congress are - to deepen and strengthen mutual understanding and respect between

religious communities, the development of a culture of tolerance and mutual respect as a counterweight to the ideology of hatred and extremism.

The VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions took place on September 14-15 in Astana. Over 100 delegations from 50 countries, including representatives of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other religions participated in the Congress. Congress adopted a Declaration, which covers fundamental issues of contemporary world. It calls for religious leaders and prominent political figures tirelessly develop dialogue in the name of friendship, solidarity and peaceful coexistence; increasing the role of education in strengthening the respectful coexistence of religions and cultures develop a dialogue with the media to clarify the significance of religious values for promoting harmony, tolerance and peace.

As can be seen from Kazakhstan's experience of promoting dialogue and peace in international relations, our country could also use its ancient culture of tolerance and multiculturalism in strengthening peace and security on the African continent.

In the context of the growing geopolitical turbulence of the post-pandemic world, it is extremely important to develop confidence building measures, new approaches to strengthen intercivilizational dialogue and trust at the global level.

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



# Business & Economy

## Diversifying export items, volume: Question that matters

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The sky rocketed cost of living and the ever increasing rate of inflation willy-nilly forced the nation to diversify options to secure foreign currency gaining's increasing the volume of export items and affording quality product for the over sea market.

Coffee is the second demanded commodity next to petroleum in the global market. Ethiopia is one of the top coffee exporting countries ranking fifth in the world.

The land is botanic garden of a variety of coffee species with unique flavor at almost fertilizer free environment. The Ethiopian coffee which is organic and traceable is exported to about three continents-Asia, Europe and the United states.

Around 95 % of the Ethiopian coffee is produced by small holder farmers who work in their own farms and sell their products to middlemen. These intermediaries are widely suspected of short changing them on the huge profit margins.

The multi-million Dollar coffee business constitutes substantial percent of Ethiopia's foreign exchange. However, the performance of Ethiopia's export trade and the beneficiary of growers have been tempted under various circumstances. Illicit trade and contraband along with the failure of well promoting the product are posing potential challenges.

Even though Ethiopia has improved practices and made important progress all along its coffee value chain, its coffee farmers lag behind. Improved coffee plant varieties remain out of reach for too many farmers, the adoption of better processing techniques has been slow, and the rising potential for disease and weather shocks due to climate change is leaving farmers increasingly vulnerable.

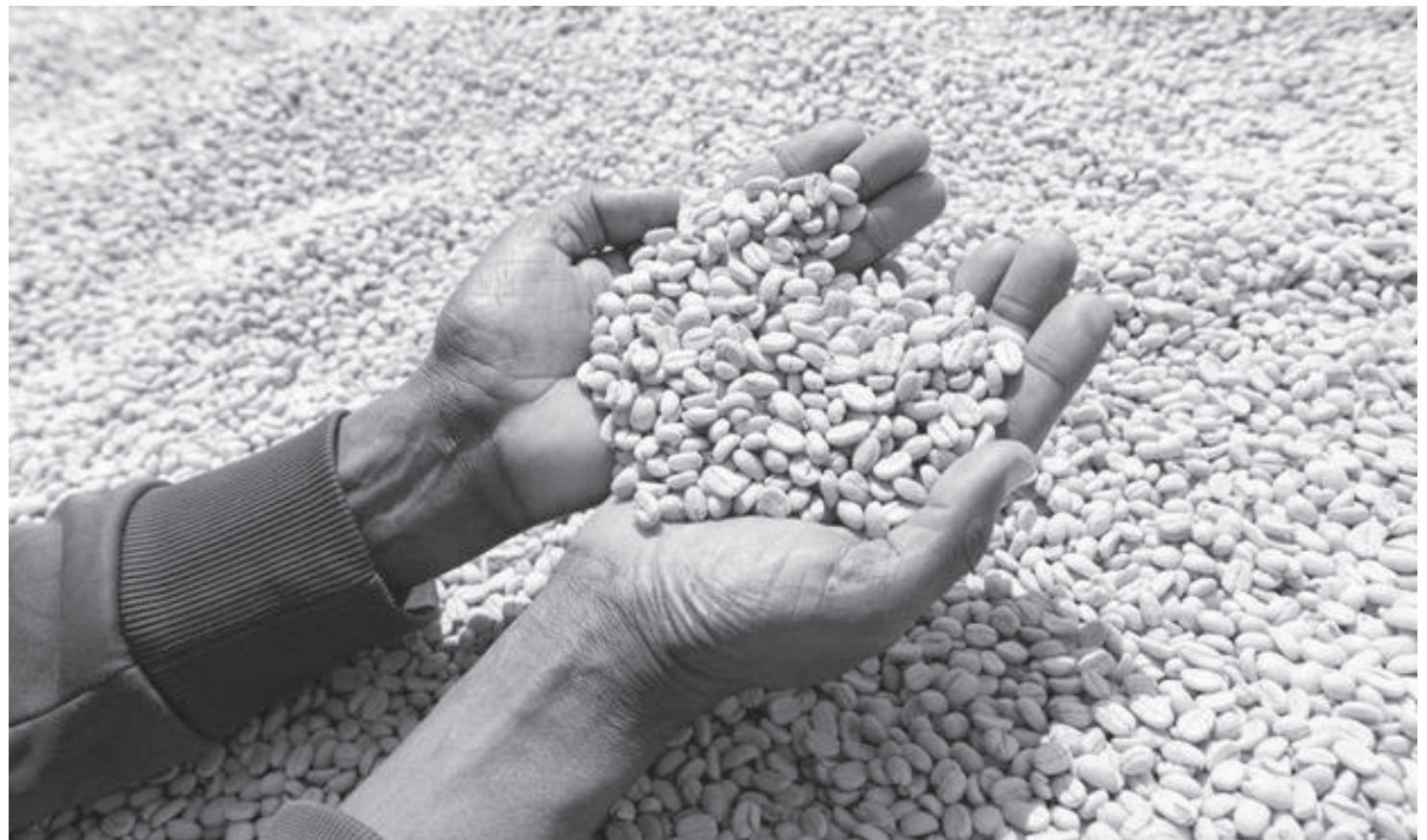
However, over the few preceding years, the country registered huge export volume and reaped substantial profit. Apart from exporting coffee as a commodity, the country host Oscar of the coffee world, coffee Olympic formally called "Cup of Excellence" and the coffee sold at staggering price.

To explicate, in the first cup alone, Coffee from Nigusie Gameda of Sidama, region received the highest price. The US company coffee at Intelligentsia bought the second highest coffee that belongs to Rumudamo Coffee PLC from Sidama at USD 108 (ETB 3672) per pound. The third highest price went to Testi Trading PLC at USD 66.60 (ETB 2264) per pound sold to black Gold Coffee Co. Ltd from Taiwan.

The nation earned USD 426.15 million from 20,438 tons of coffee shipped in the first three months of 2022/23 fiscal year, the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) reported.

The revenue figure has shown a 30.27 % (or USD 27.30 million) jump compared with the amount secured in the same months last year

Germany ranks top with a share of 21 %



of the revenue was and it has been the top destination for Ethiopian coffee in the three-month period this year.

Saudi Arabia (over 11 %) and Belgium (11 %) took second and third positions, respectively.

According to ECTA's report, Ethiopia exported 14,934.75 tons of coffee to Germany and earned USD72.05 million.

Saudi Arabia also bought 8,991.94 tons for USD 45.54 million. More than 6,981 tons of coffee was also shipped to Belgium, fetching USD 44.56 million.

The US, the UAE, South Korea, China, Japan, Italy, and France consequently made up the remaining ECTA's top 10 destination rank.

Countries in the top ten bought 82 % of the total volume and 82 % of total revenue of Ethiopia's three-month coffee export.

Ethiopia is Africa's largest exporter of coffee Arabica, and relies on earnings from the crop as a major source of foreign exchange.

Its officials aim to ship 360,000 tons of coffee to international market and secure USD 1.8 billion during the current 2022/23 fiscal year amid lower global coffee output forecast.

From October 2022 to September 2023 Ethiopia's coffee exports are anticipated to increase to a 4.72 million bags, a record (280,560 metric tons – MT) from 282,000 MT the previous year, says a new report.

During this period, Ethiopia is expected to produce 8.25 million of 60-kilogram bags of coffee (495,000 MT), according to the report released a few weeks ago by United States Department of Agriculture.

More than 15 million smallholder farmers and other industry participants rely on coffee as their primary source of income in Ethiopia. Last Ethiopian budget year 2021/22, Ethiopia's coffee exports totaled 4.70 million bags (282,000 MT).

Ethiopia is the world's third-largest Arabica

coffee producer and the greatest producer of coffee in Africa as of 2022, with a production that has slowly increased from 6 million to over 8.15 million bags in the past ten years. The coffee seedling that was recently planted and grew for five to ten years is now producing.

The production of coffee is anticipated to increase by 100,000 bags in 2022–2023 to 8.25 million bags (495,000 MT), assuming favorable weather, low insect and disease pressure, and sufficient rain.

The increased yields seen in the coffee producing belts, particularly in the southern and western regions, as well as the introduction of new trees for harvesting are the key causes of the increase in production volume.

Due to Coffee Berry Disease (CBD), coffee experts are also advising coffee farmers to implement all feasible phytosanitary measures, such as regular field monitoring to uproot and burn infected coffee trees CBD.

Sun-drying and wet processing are the two most popular coffee processing techniques. Currently, 20–30 percent of Ethiopian coffee is washed, and 70–80 percent is unwashed or sun-dried. In many areas, including the United States where consumers prefer "cleaner" cleaned coffee. Besides, unwashed coffee is sold for less money.

Ethiopia opened a cutting-edge coffee training facility in June 2021 to provide practice-based training that is modular in nature with the goal of improving the sustainability and value chain in the nation's coffee sector. The facility is housed on the grounds of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) in Addis Ababa.

The facility offers training courses on the principles of coffee, processing, drying, and storing, as well as trade and equipment maintenance.

Documents further insisted that when Ethiopia exports coffee, there are four criteria that are taken into account:

Certification (e.g., Fair-trade), Coffee grade and coffee cupping tests.

Geographical origin: from well-recognized geographical location in particularly Harar and Yirgacheffe.

Post-harvest treatment: sun dried or washed coffee. These high-quality coffees make up an estimated 25 % of export quantities and are occasionally referred to as specialty coffee.

Consumption: Ethiopians are among the continent's biggest coffee drinkers, and the trend there is steadily increasing. 3.5 million bags of domestic coffee will be consumed in mid year 2022/23, according to forecasts (210,000 MT).

The majority of coffee bought on the local market was either rejected or did not fulfill the requirements set by the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) for export quality.

However, for Arabica coffee, local prices are typically greater than those found elsewhere. Ethiopians' social and cultural lives depend heavily on coffee.

Due to better export coffee prices over the past two years, coffee prices on the local market are rising annually.

Around 5 % of coffee production is anticipated to be diverted to the black market and cross-border trade in 2021/22, with the remaining 42 % going to the domestic market.

The remaining 58 % is directed toward the export market, with 80–85 % of that going through the ECX, 5–10 % going directly through cooperatives, and the remaining 5 % going through commercial farms.

Only in January 2022, Ethiopia sold about 11,200 bags (672 MT) of coffee online during the launch of Ethiopian coffee brands on China's largest E-commerce platform, Alibaba (Tmall Global), as a result of collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).



# Planet Earth

## Harnessing agricultural potential through science and technology

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The issues of hunger, poverty, and malnutrition have been continuous challenges to developing countries. Hence, states in the world have designed various policies, strategies, and approaches to find a solution. Even, they believe that science and technology have been a remedy to ensure socio-economic development when they have acted in an interdisciplinary manner to solve the challenges.

Indeed, the current agriculture practices require high-tech technologies. Farmers and others use science and technology to collect data, analyze efficiency, monitor growth, and quality, and more to save money and get better yields.

Promoting the utilization of science and technology in agriculture has a significant role to advance the productivity, quality, efficiency, and competitiveness of agriculture, contributing to the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, ensuring food security, social security, and income improvement for agricultural producers and traders.

Moreover, science and technology in agriculture facilitate the use of high-yield and high-quality seeds, the adaptation to climate change, the application of mechanization, and the implementation of advanced technical processes are increasingly being enhanced.

For instance, in the field of horticulture, the relatively high rate of using improved seeds has promoted productivity and production efficiency. In the same venue, the employment of science and technology in the field of animal husbandry improves the productivity of some major livestock breeds. The same is true for the forestry and fisheries sectors.

Cognizant of this, Ethiopia has been working to be self-sufficient in food at the family and country levels. Especially, following the political reform, the government has designed various strategies including green legacy and avocado development to ensure food security across the country. The government has also introduced cloud seeding technology in the agriculture sector.

Minister of Planning and Development Dr. Fitsum Assefa stated that in the last two years, the government has prepared Ethiopia's Food System Transformation Roadmap under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Health. Accordingly, the green legacy initiative, summer wheat production, and the *Yelemat Turufat* programs are leading to this success.

Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde said transforming the agriculture sector in Ethiopia needs strong cooperation among



stakeholders and partners as well as the use of science and technology.

The country has immense agricultural potential, the president stressed the need for continuous discussion, strong cooperation among stakeholders and partners, and the use of the latest science and technology to tap Ethiopia's agricultural potential and ensure food security and nutrition.

The agricultural practice in the world is changing with science and technology, and modernizing the agriculture sector in Ethiopia needs the use of science and technology as well as strong cooperation of all stakeholders and partners. The president further stressed the need to transform the lives of women engaged in the agriculture sector by providing technological and expert support.

Basically, technology has a major role in farming and agriculture practices. With the advent of digital technology, the scope of agricultural practices has widened. This as a result reduces losses and increases efficiency as well as improves crop yields and supports an increase in the income of the farming community.

Regarding the impact of climate change on developing countries, Ethiopia should work on preventing the impacts of climate change instead of reducing climate change consequences. Therefore, to succeed in

Green Legacy and food security, it is a key to further strengthen the efforts, President Sahle-Work stated.

Minister of Agriculture Oumer Hussien said Ethiopia has achieved well in wheat production, Green Legacy, and oilseeds, as well as prioritized livestock products. Particularly, wheat-cultivated land in the country has expanded from more than 1.3 million hectares of land in two rounds this year to over 680,000 last year.

Regarding the Green Legacy that took place in the past four years, about 25 billion tree seedlings were planted and 767,000 jobs were created. Besides, Ethiopia has 36 million hectares of arable land, of which 13.4 million hectares of land have been cultivated. Nonetheless, the national demand from the agriculture sector is huge when compared to what has been done, he elaborated.

In fact, the government has been striving in preparing policies and strategies as well as reforming the agriculture sector. Hence, the results obtained in the sector, especially in the green legacy initiative and summer wheat productions are encouraging and could be taken as a model for other countries. To further modernize the agricultural sector and make it more efficient, and compete with other countries, a lot of work needs to be done in science and technology in agriculture.

*The agricultural practice in the world is changing with science and technology, and modernizing the agriculture sector in Ethiopia needs the use of science and technology as well as strong cooperation of all stakeholders and partners*

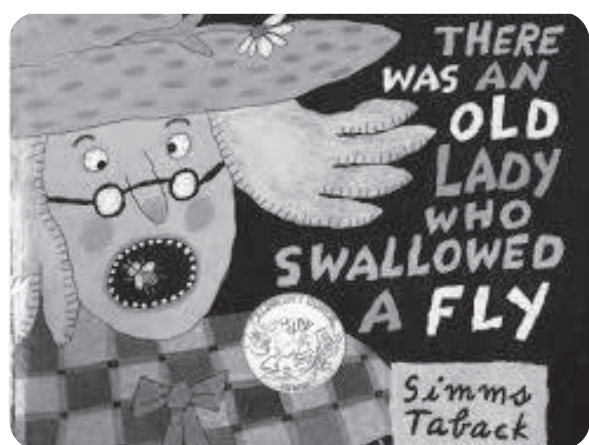
# Art & Culture

## Nursery Rhymes sure proofs of bonding with children

By Alem Hailu G/Kristos

*I grew up imbibing nursery rhymes which teach language in an effortless also in an informal way. They help widen one's vocabulary. Teachers and parents could use this approach to ignite the reading passion of their children. As such, rhymes if studied by heart they could be long-lasting embedded in the minds of children.*

*Let us see some examples of much-loved rhyme before I introduce you to my works and another author-poet Gideon Cecile, a deceased pen-friend of mine from New Guyana*



**There is an old lady who swallowed a fly**

*There was an old lady who swallowed a fly  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!  
There was an old lady who swallowed a spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!*

\*\*\*\*\*

*There was an old lady who swallowed a bird;  
How absurd to swallow a bird!  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!  
There was an old lady who swallowed a cat;  
Fancy that! She swallowed a cat!  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird,  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!  
There was an old lady that swallowed a dog;  
What a hog, to swallow a dog!  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat,  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird,  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!*

*There was an old lady who swallowed a goat;  
She just opened her throat and swallowed a goat!  
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog,  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat,  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird,  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she'll die!  
There was an old lady who swallowed a cow;  
I don't know how she swallowed a cow!  
She swallowed the cow to catch the goat,  
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog,  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat,  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird,  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside her!  
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly;  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly – Perhaps she's dead  
There was an old lady who swallowed a horse;  
...She's dead, of course!*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Now to my rhymes



### More fame

*If you shoot  
A ball like a rocket  
Right into the net  
I bet  
Many fans you will get.*

*If with a header  
Jumping high  
You score a goal another  
"Hurrah!" fans  
Will let you  
A piggy shoulder.*

*No doubt*

*You will also add fame  
Common will be also  
On the tongues of fans  
Your name,  
Shooting between  
The goal keeper's legs  
Before the end of the game  
For the third time  
You do the same!*

*It should not come to you  
As a surprise  
When TV and Radio refer you  
A star on the rise!*

\*\*\*\*\*



**A bat**

*Early at night  
If you see  
A flying rat  
In a way  
That is not right  
A zigzag  
Be sure it is a bat.  
Sitting on  
A big tree and  
Winking with  
A scornful eye  
How the bat fly,  
An owl  
Mocks 'It is foul!  
It is foul!  
It would be better  
If bats crawl!'*

\*\*\*\*\*

*When I e-mailed to Gideon he gave me the following feedback*

*Thanks for sending me your work. I just glanced at your poems and Novel.  
I believe you are a very talented writer. Since your poems are for kids you can try write them shorter with a consistent rhyme pattern.*

*Poetry is very hard to publish for free but your works have substance.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Monkeys are dancing on a tree,  
Wild cherries falling around me.  
The sun arose from a long sleep,  
A lonely cloud looks like a sheep.  
The monkeys are jiving in a dance,  
They delight me in their romance.  
My wife is calling from afar,  
Her lovely eyes look like a star.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*That's a poem with a regular rhyme. Your poems must compel your reader. Gideon winded up. Teachers, parents and publisher must think of exploiting this approach. Especially if the effort is complemented by audio book the effort would be worth the candle.*



# Society

## Improving adolescent and youth health services

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

The World Health Organization (WHO) classifies persons in the age range of 10-19 years as adolescents and those 15-24 years as youth. While the adolescent classification is mostly universal, different continents or nations adopt different age ranges for youth.

The definition of youth is also influenced by the constant changes in demographic, economic, and sociocultural circumstances. For instance, according to the African Youth Charter, youth are people 15 to 35 years. The National Youth Policy of Ethiopia, the other way around, adopts the age of 15-29 years for youth.

This part of society is believed to be the driver of the economy of a nation. Therefore, respective nations and institutions try to frame policies and strategies to enabling the young people to get improved services that could help them realize their full potential and attaining their goals.

As per nation health strategy, efforts are underway to improve the health and wellbeing of this segment of the population, and the government of Ethiopia has been undertaking a number of activities committed to respond to the health needs of the young people.

The Ministry of Health by developing and the first National Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy (2006-2015) and implementing it for almost a decade, it has seen significant improvements on the reproductive health of adolescents and youth particularly among women and girls and registered remarkable success and a significant improvement.

The Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP I) recognized the vulnerability and risk of sexual and reproductive health of adolescent and youth in Ethiopia; and notify that the lack of access to and utilization of youth friendly services is a challenge. In line with the HSTP, the Ministry developed and disseminated the second National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy (2016-2020) that commits to addressing adolescents and youth health related matters such as sexual reproductive health, substance use, communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutrition, and injuries.

As part of this effort, of late the Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau (ACAHB) staged a panel discussion with respective health institutions targeting to improve the quality of healthcare services to adolescents and youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Addis Ababa Health Bureau Deputy Bureau Head Hangatu Mohammed said that a number of plans have been devised; and several activities are being carried out with the aim to improve



Photo - ACAHB

the healthcare services of adolescents and youth. However, as to her, to make the effort successful and ensuring the health of adolescents and youth, the collaboration of multi-sectorial organizations-leaderships of respective health bureaus, stakeholders at all level is important. They should join hands and work together with determination.

She went on to note that the industry parks are among the priority intervention areas in ensuring that the youth working there benefitting from the services, mainly, sexual and reproductive health services.

Underscoring that the health services provided to the community by health facilities should be improved now more than ever before, Hangatu said that especially the services offered to youth should be available at all time, around-the-clock. According to her, it is high time to meet the multi-dimensional needs of young people and health centers should open 24/7 to serve these parts of the community.

According to her, efforts are underway in 12 model health centers and the Bureau is working to scale up the good practices gained from there into other health facilities.

There are many reasons for the growing attention to the health of adolescents and youth in Ethiopia. First, this group comprises a significant proportion (33.8 %) of the country's population. Second, as this cohort joins the workforce, the foundations laid in health will have profound implications for social, political, and economic development of the country.

This is particularly important when due attention is given to decline the rate of fertility and mortality in Ethiopia.

Third, healthy adolescents are key assets and resources, with great potential to contribute



to their families, communities and the nation not only for the present but also for the future being actors in social change, not simply beneficiaries of social programs. Not only that, but the surge of interest in adolescent and youth health also responds to the improved global understanding of the developmental process that takes place during adolescence which guides designing and delivering tailored interventions for subgroups in this segment of the population.

Director of the Maternal and Child Health Directorate Sindu Mekuria with the Bureau for her part noted that young people should get services at proximity with skilled health professionals. She also stated that the necessary training, and support and monitoring activity is being offered for those professionals who are providing health services to adolescents and young adults. Concurrently, monitoring and follow-up activities are undertaken.

The Bureau is working to upgrade the skills and knowledge of health professionals, in

this regard training is underway to address the gaps, she reiterated.

She also stressed the importance of the strategy to systematically address the needs of young people in a coordinated manner, engaging young people and other stakeholders. The program is mainly delivered at schools, youth centers, and health institutions in coordination with pertinent stakeholders.

In a bid to improve the health services provided to adolescents and youth, 14 service packages have become operational in all health facilities. Among others providing the necessary information regarding integrated reproductive health services, carrying out awareness raising activities to reduce the rate of unplanned pregnancy, providing HIV counseling and testing service, increasing the use of family planning services are few.

In the panel discussion, research findings were presented to participants regarding to performance of adolescent and youth health services and the challenges on the ground.



# Law & Politics

## War and Peace

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

War is ugly. That is what everyone in most of the media says. If that is so, why is there always news of war and violence in all corners of the world? The answer is simple. Unlike peace, it is relatively easy and simple to wage war. And there are people who make money, survive and thrive by waging war. Moreover, it does not take as much coordination and cooperation to make war as it does to make peace. It just takes a bunch of a few heartless warmongers who have the guts to do crazy things that cannot be left unanswered. An old Ethiopian proverb goes as follows: “Just one bad ox is enough to make the stable noisy and restless all night long.”

In addition to the tragic loss of innocent lives, the ugliness of war is also evident in the economic and humanitarian, and psychosocial crises it causes. One could be forced to go to war without intentions and desire, only for self-defense and survival with the provocation of lawless aggressors.

History teaches us that several generations of Ethiopians have been involved in various wars without wanting to, only in defense of the sovereignty of their nation and their liberty against aggressors and terrorists.

The other sad point about war is innocent civilians, especially women and children are the ones that face the biggest share of suffering during and after the war ended. While civilians suffer in IDP camps battling the elements, the aggressors who masterminded the war continue to enjoy in the warmth of their secured home surrounded by their families and friends hundreds of miles away from the war zone.

But the situation is directly the opposite when it comes to peace. Building peace from ground zero and clearing the rubble made by the war is an uphill task. It takes negotiation, and cooperation of several interest groups, and involves hard bargaining and difficult compromise. Peace needs time and patience to grow. It can not boom and spread fast like war and violence with little effort. In a briefing he gave last week here in Addis Ababa, The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has hit it right on the spot when he said, “Peace is never easy — but peace is always necessary”

Building Peace entails much more than signing treaties, burying the hatchets, reinstating constitutional law and order, opening the roads, and offices, and fixing the cables. The process also

involves understanding the root cause of the conflict of the past, strategizing the best possible solution not to return to it, and addressing the major psychosocial issues affecting people in the war-affected communities.

Now, the war days are behind us. The long arduous journey has begun with signing of the Pretoria peace deal. One month later, after the signing of the peace, the dawn of peace is breaking fast in northern Ethiopia, pushing away the dark shadows of war. The sound of guns has been silenced, the roads are opened, and the power lines are going operational.

This week Ethiopian Telecom announced it has completed the rehabilitation of lines in much of the Tigray region. That is big news for those living outside the region who have been in anguish guessing about the fate of their loved ones in Tigray. They have been waiting for this news since June 2021, the time when the Ethiopian forces left Tigray declaring the first unilateral humanitarian truce.

Asrat, a resident of Adama town who had been living and working in the Tigray region says: “Arahaley and Berihu are cousins. They were Mekelle residents. Both of them were my close friends. Abrahaley was my best friend since my college years. Later, I met Berihu and we worked together for several years. Our bond was so strong, we maintained contact even after I moved out of Mekelle to live here. The last time I heard from them was during a few weeks before Ethiopian forces withdrew from Mekelle in the summer of 2021.”

It was after that time that the ugliest and bloodiest episodes of the two-year northern Ethiopian conflict happened. That was also the time many Tigrayans civilians were forced to join the war in their civilian clothes to form a human wave. Unfortunately, most of them perished in the maws of the fire gushing out of the mortars, guns, and air-borne munitions.

Asrat continues with his story; “At that time, the majority of men in Tigray in their primes and sound health conditions and who have no kinship and contacts in the political circles have been sent to the military camps. So it is a high probability that both Berihu and Arahaley may have been conscripted to join the war. I am wondering whether they are still alive and in good health as they have been or not. Hope I will find out in the next few days.”

Asrat’s Tigrayan friends may have died

in the war as he feared or lay wounded in the rehabilitation centers. Or if lucky may be in an IDP camps alive and one piece, along with their families. If they are a bit luckier, they could be in the safe hands and care of the Ethiopian forces after being captured on the war front.

Asrat is keeping his fingers crossed that he will hear the laughter and the happy voice of his friends in Mekelle when the telephone lines are open for public use in a few days time. In addition to the resumption of telecom services, Ethiopian Airlines announced last week it has finalized preparations to resume passenger flights to the Tigray region. “We can start any day. It could be today or tomorrow. At any time when we are told to start, we will,” said the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines.

It is indeed a thrilling experience to hear from a lost loved one after a long time. The situation is quite exceptional when it is under the circumstances of war, where anything could happen to the person we are trying to reach out to.

Last summer, I myself had a similar experience of that feeling when I met my old friend, Kedir, a Woldia resident, on the telephone, for the first time since we lost contacts for several months due to the war.

When the sights and the sounds of the war approached Woldia at the end of August 2021, Kedir sent his wife, four children, and an aging mother to the safety of relatives residing in Addis Ababa, but he remained in Woldia to defend his hard-earned property against looters taking a potentially fatal risk.

“I was alone, hiding in the house for 39 days. During that time, I lost seven kilograms of my weight. I thought each day was my last one. Every knock at my door was a startling alarm. I saw neighbors turning on each other. I saw greed, treachery, and lawlessness at their worst. I also saw unbelievable kindness. You can fully appreciate the value of peace only when you experience a war situation. I will do everything in my capacity not to see the return of those dark days again,” says Kedir.

***Building Peace entails much more than signing treaties, burying the hatchets, reinstating constitutional law and order, opening the roads, and offices, and fixing the cables. The process also involves understanding the root cause of the conflict of the past, strategizing the best possible solution not to return to it, and addressing the major psycho-social issues affecting people in the war-affected communities***





Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## To use bare hands or not to use bare hands...

Did I tell you about this guy who tipped a waitress with tip already left on the table by the previous customer! And the fellow was dressed to kill as they would put it. I can tell you the way he carried himself you'd think he's some kind of royal something demanding his 'throne' which would put him on the top of the world. If you're the kind of guy who tells it as it comes you'd have called him an imposter, which he was. To tell you the truth what's more it wasn't much of a tip. The young lady most probably could have nothing more than a cup of coffee with the miserable tip. But this guy was being smart where smartness is the last thing anyone needs. I mean giving someone's tip as one's own has nothing to do with smartness. It is crooked! That is what many of us miss these days; we try to substitute the crooked for smartness.

Years back there was this young lady who'd force you to turn your head for a second look, if you know what I mean. She was one real work of nature. The way she carried herself you'd run out of adjectives trying to describe her. One thing about her was that she went to restaurants and dining places by herself. The kinds of things being rare in those days it made her the center of attention more times than would have been comfortable. One thing that stood out about this young lady was she never put her bare hands on food. She always used knife and fork as if she was under some omen that the wrong spirits would come knocking if she laid her bare hands on any food item. She also handled the knife and fork so meticulously one might suspect she was actually practiced such things behind closed doors.

Frankly there's nothing wrong with what she was doing at the dining table. I mean she didn't throw morsels at someone's table interfere in any way. Why am I telling you

about her? Well, behind doors in her house no knives and forks within a mile! The knife and fork thing is not about table manners... but something she did for public display. The lady, for all the nice things about her, was not being herself. She's playacting outdoors and being her natural self behind doors. I can tell you every other man, woman and child of us playact in public! That heavily dents confidence and what we miss to notice is that it is people watch! Yes they do watch!

I had this friend who now is deceased, may his soul rest in peace, and he never tries to hide behind actions which don't describe him at all. He completed his high school studies in a small town hundreds of kilometers from Addis and he came to Addis for college and stayed here. You can take him to any high class restaurant and he enjoys being himself; meaning he doesn't waste precious minutes dealing with knives and forks with which he isn't familiar. He uses his bare hands as tens of millions use. His job took him to embassy receptions and even in those places he doesn't care for what people say. He uses his hands; yes, at the end of the meal his hands might look unfinished abstract artwork by a painter who himself is abstract material. Ha!

A long time ago so long that it appeared to be another lifetime some twenty something of us media fellows had to go to a couple of then communist countries for journalism workshop. (I think I wrote a paragraph or two about it sometime back.) I have to admit that our communist hosts gave us tons of material on 'agrarian journalism' and I never found out how you write about those things. Now being those the times they were and we being from this part of Africa we looked different and the natives were watched our every action.

Now there were these lunch events thrown in

our name (or was it in our 'honor!') and quite a number of other people attended the events. I think it was on the second or third day of our arrival and lunch was roast chicken, and almost half of it. (Our hosts must have thought "since they all look so hungry give them half the chicken and it would take them through the whole month!) Now the ferengis were busy with their knives and forks using them with the precision surgeons or other such professionals. Well, we had no way of being that meticulous. Most of us weren't that familiar with the knife and fork toys, at least not on our dinner table. Frankly some of us never even used them except good old fork in the case of the not so-frequent spaghetti dish. We were torn between going for bare hands and settling for the veggies flanking the chicken option.

Finally, deliverance came in the most unlikely way. Way opposite us at a corner of one dining table a ferengi for some reason had this chicken breast clutched in his ten fingers and was tearing away on it with what look like vengeance against that chicken species. We needed no more convincing and we went for the kill with forty-plus hands coming into play. I wouldn't mislead you saying it was a perfect photo-op moment. But one thing was that we were troubled because we tried to look for ways on how to playact. When we finally returned to being ourselves and what a sumptuous roast chicken it turned out to be.

Well you wouldn't need nerves of steel to put up that "I really don't mean it!" 'diplomatic' smile. If ever those nerves of steel are needed it'd be when you try to sustain that happy face despite all the ...you're witnessing.

Too many of us try to be what we're not and the mess we create spills over and offends others. Be it in politics or other socio-

economic issues we try to playact while suppressing our genuine feelings for the sake of joining the crowd. Believe me, 'joining the crowd' is the one thing forcing us to be suspicious of each other preventing us from coming to all-inclusive understanding to hundred and one things.

How is it possible to act so irresponsible when they know it would not be a happy ending? That guy giving someone else's tip who probably thought himself as sharing the Einstein and whatever 'super' genes might be the sorriest of dudes in our Milky Way. But of course no one blames him for not showing people that he is as stupid as harshly 'stupid' is defined in the dictionaries. Imagine a guy saying, "After all I'm not as foolish as people think me to be!" At least he admits people think of him as foolish! That is good for starters.

Take those guys being interviewed why they started one thing or another. "My question is how did you come up with this idea of establishing a traditional restaurant?"

"You know I'm one of those who always feel sad seeing traditional food and drinks going out of the picture. I want to restore that tradition. You know, it's not about the money." No, dear sir, it's about the money! Everything you and your likes do is about the money. Thumbs up for establishing a traditional restaurant with all the tej, the raw meat, the 'gored, gored' and all that. But, come on now, you don't need to overplay the nice-guy card! Especially, when you're charging us three hundred-plus birr vat not included for an unimpressive simple 'shiro' dish!

To use bare hands or not to use bare hands; that's the challenge... the challenge of choosing between being oneself on one side and 'joining the crowd' on the other.

## Shopping a mental therapy! No, Sir!

I read somewhere shopping could be a mental therapy. Who the hell are these guys who came up with such a crazy idea! Had they been in our midst we'd have told their relatives to take them to holy water places since their case is too much for modern medicine. But then indeed in the society shopping might be that- a mental therapy; not here!

Say this guy is feeling unwell and goes to the doctor.

"So what's bothering you?" the nice doctor asks. If the medicines we pay fortunes for were as healing as the doctor's smile ours would have been one of the healthiest places on earth.

"I'm not sure I can explain it to you doc."

"Just try and let me do the thinking."

I just don't feel all right! My mind is confused about one thousand one hundred things. I'm not sure what to take and what to drop!"

"Do you have a family?"

"Yes, I've a wife and two children."

"I hope you lead a normal life."

"I used to Doc. I used to lead a god life until the past couple of months."

"Then I'll tell you what the best mental therapy is; shopping! Go on a shopping spree and in no time your mind would be free of all negative thoughts."

"But, doc. of the one thousand and one hundred problems the thousand are caused because of shopping. Every time I go to shop another fifty or a hundred problems are added."

"Oh that's difficult, isn't it? I'll tell you what we'll do. First sit down with your wife and talk over things. She might help in stabilizing your mind."

"Doc. but she is the cause of the remaining hundred problems!"

There's this ploy the financially muscular companies enjoy playing. They're said to pay a few scientists mouth-watering sums so that they'll write some research paper claiming that their researches have proven the company's products are the healthiest or something like that. I always

wondered why one group tells is no more than two cups of coffee per day and another one says five and six cups a day has been proven beneficial for a multitude of health problems.

By the way just in passing, they are talking about this digital currency thing and they are sending the shivers even across the spines of those of us in this part of the world. I mean maybe this digital currency thing might be far off for us. But believe me with all that's happening around the world you wouldn't know what 'sooner' what 'later' would mean.

Times have changed and even in the 'Insanely Rich West' shopping has become a nightmare with this recession thing escalating. Now if indeed shopping was a mental therapy we'd have not seen all the doomsday talk in Europe and across the Atlantic. It is indeed news that there were people who weren't able to afford the usual turkey for Thanksgiving Day. Now if that isn't news nothing is!

While we're at it there is a bit of news which I really got interesting in all the

wrong ways. A group of twenty-something guys were arrested while plotting to throw the government. No it isn't anywhere in Africa or Latin America, It's in Germany! This group was said to have been planning to throw out the German government! One question is that are coups possible in Europe? Or is this the result of the so-called new world order! Or is it part of what they are calling "The Great Reset?"

Anyways, about this 'shopping therapy' thing I think the researchers should go back to their labs. The world might no more be what they think it is!

"Look, I'll go shopping in the afternoon. Will you come with me?"

"No way! There's no way I'll come with you!"

"Why not! Didn't you hear that shopping is mental 'therapy'?"

"That's why I'm not coming. When I go shopping it is not therapy I'm looking for. It's less greed and more humanity both of which are fast eroding!"

Shopping a mental therapy! No Sir!



# Enhancing bilateral, multilateral diplomacy

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

## Ethiopia, UK bilateral talks

Last Thursday afternoon, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) met with James Cleverly, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom in Hawassa City, in Ethiopia. During Secretary James Cleverly's visit to Hawassa, Prime Minister Abiy, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen and other higher government officials warmly welcomed him.

The above shot was taken in the city of Hawassa, around the beautiful Lake of Hawassa Ethiopian higher government officials are welcoming Secretary Cleverly. In the Picture are Afar Regional State President Awel Arba, Amhara Regional State President Yilikal Kefale (PhD), Finance Minister Ahmed Shide, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Secretary James Cleverly and current British Ambassador to Ethiopia, Dr. Alastair McPhail. PM Abiy discussed with Secretary James Cleverly focusing on current issues and enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries.



## Ethiopian Federal Police chief elected as president of EAPCCO

The 24<sup>th</sup> Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) a general meeting was held in Addis Ababa with a theme of "promoting best policing practices in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime in EAPCCO region and beyond." The general meeting of the regional police officers focuses on fighting against terrorism, transnational -organized crimes, human trafficking, illegal arms trafficking, drug trafficking and other security challenges that affect the Eastern African Region. The regional police body consists of members of 14 countries of chiefs of polices, namely Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, Djibouti, Somalia, Seychelles, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Comoros, and Burundi.

During the general meeting held from 4-9 December 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia becomes the new president of the regional organization. Commissioner-General of the Ethiopian Federal Police, Demelash Gebremichael, has been sworn in as the new president of EAPCCO.

The above shoot was taken during the hand-over ceremony of responsibility from the farewell President EAPCCO, Inspector General of National Police of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dieudonné Amuli Bahigwa to Commissioner-General Demelash Gebremichael at the African Union hall, after he elected as a new president of the regional police chiefs organization.

The 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting of the regional organization was attended by President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewdie.



## Ethiopia, Russia agree to enhance bilateral cooperation

The 8<sup>th</sup> Ethio-Russian Joint Ministerial Meeting was concluded in Addis Ababa this week, on 08 December, attended by Belete Molla (PhD), Minister of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia and Evgeny Petrov, the Head of the Russian Federation delegation to the Ethio-Russian Joint Ministerial Commission. The Joint Ministerial Meeting of the two countries was held for three days and the country discuss ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of mining, energy, trade, education, health, agriculture, industry, culture and tourism, science and technology, geo-spatial and space science, investment, and ICT fields. At the conclusion of the ministerial meeting, the two countries signed agreements to enhance their cooperation.