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Photo: Eyob Teferi

Eying advanced military technology, college building professional army

BY MESERET BEHAILIU

ADDIS ABABA, Building a modern and professional army and security institutions that use modern technology is a matter of great attention, actors in the area said.

The above was made in a panel discussion that the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College held yesterday under the theme of 'Military Professionalism.'

In his opening remarks, the college's Commander-in-Chief, Colonel Demeke Mengistu stated that since its establishment in 2005, the institution has made senior officers qualified for duty through four education and training programs. The college is also working tirelessly to support efforts to build a competent and professional army that would have the capacity to understand national, regional, and international geopolitics.

Apart from its contribution to building a professional army in Ethiopia, the college has also received many senior officers from neighboring countries.

According to the commander-in-chief, the Staff College has graduated 1,097 senior officers in first-degree, second degree and short training courses, 982 of them are Ethiopians and 115 senior officers

See Eying advanced ... Page 3

NDRMC distributes 71 percent humanitarian aid in second round

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA-The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) announced that 71 percent of the second round humanitarian aid has been distributed to people affected by the conflict in northern Ethiopia.

NDRMC Public Relations Director Debebe Zewde told local media that 5,202,297 people in Tigray State, 2,440,677 people in Amhara and 715,132 people in Afar have been recently receiving humanitarian

See NDRMC distributes ... Page 3



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The Oscars versus the African movie academy awards

Agew horse riders' festival promotes tourism, social interaction



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CBE President Abie Sano

CBE's profit rises to record 13 bln. Birr in half-year

- Assets hit 1.2 T. Birr mark

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) announced yesterday that it made a profit of 13 billion Birr in the first six months of the current fiscal year, which keeps the firm's leading position in the country's banking sector.

See CBE's profit... Page 3



Photo - Gebabo Gebre

Ethiopia saves 15 bln. Birr in blocking cyber-attacks

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The Information Network Security Administration (INSA) said it has saved some 15 billion Birr by blocking attempted cyber-attacks on various institutions in six months alone.

Presenting the half-year performance

See Ethiopia saves... Page 3

News

Society, ICRC ink 2023 operational cooperation agreement

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) signed an operational cooperation agreement amounting to 212,493,596 Birr and 44,176,297 Birr in kind with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

It was learnt that the agreement has been made to address mandate-oriented partnership interventions in conflict-prone areas, mainly in Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, and Benshangul-Gumuz.

Moreover, the partnership would keep working for effectively meet the escalating requirements of the humanitarian needs apart from improving membership and volunteer management while preserving lives and livelihoods, fostering community resilience, and saving lives.

Furthermore, the agreement enhances communication and image-building while engaging in humanitarian diplomacy.



ERCS Secretary General Getachew Taa and Ethiopia's ICRC delegation Head Nicolas Von Arx signed the agreement yesterday.

At the event, Getachew announced that the agreement would improve the ERCS and ICRC's long-standing engagement in combined humanitarian operations and

capacity-building programs to address the needs of those impacted by violent situations in Ethiopia and by conflicts in the area.

The ERCS secretary-general added that their collaboration "is a paradigm of ongoing activity to build capacity, rehabilitate, and integrate the violence-affected persons into

the community."

Nicolas Von Arx on his part stated that the ERCS and the ICRC have mutual mandates in terms of responding to emergencies.

He continued by saying that our institutions collaborate to help those afflicted by war and other violent situations by offering relief and aid.

The Operational Cooperation Agreement aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) in strengthening its capabilities in the areas of national society partnership, national society development, movement coordination, capacity building in communication and dissemination, programs for reestablishing family links and economic security, health, water and habitat and Sexual/Gender based Violence.

For more than 80 years, ERCS and ICRC have collaborated to safeguard and aid those impacted by war and other forms of violence.



Metropolis' hospitality industry to get ready for AU summits

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Hotel and tour guide personnel in the metropolis have exchanged views with the National Committee organized to oversee preparations for the upcoming AU summits.

The committee also urged those in hospitality industry to get ready towards providing guests with quality services.

The National Committee composed of over 30 sectors and led by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) discussed a range of issues revolving around the development of preparations to welcome participants of the AU's two consecutive summits with hotel and tour guide personnel.

During the discussion held yesterday a member of the National Committee Amb. Birtukan Ayano said that preliminary activities are being finalized to receive delegations from AU member countries and all other participants.

She said that : "This year, we do expect our hotels and tour guide personnel to provide guest with decent hospitability with Ethiopian value; hotels should focus on service quality than business as it is a

national responsibility."

All tourism organizations which are chosen to deliver services have a responsibility of building national image. The national committee will also conduct supervision works on services of the hospitality sector, she indicated.

Tourism State Minister Selamawit Dawit stated that hotel and tour guide personnel should prioritize guests' security and satisfaction. The role of hospitality sectors should be beyond doing business.

Stakeholders and members of the National Committee have also assured that they are ready to deliver all the required services to guests. Hotels, ethio-telecom, security institutions, and other member institutions [of the National Committee] briefed development of preparations to the Committee.

The Two Sessions of the AU are slated to be held from 15 to 19 February; the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council [Ministerial Session] will be held from 15 to 16 February while the 36th Ordinary Session of AU Assembly [heads of State and Government Session] is to be carried out from 18 to 19 February, it was learnt.

Panel underlines boosting stakeholders' capacity amid capital market realization

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA- Private Companies and financial institutions should boost their capacity to make the capital market a reality, the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority said.

During a panel discussion organized by the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ACCSA) and Ethiopian Capital Market Authority, the Authority Director General Biruk Taye (PhD) yesterday reiterated that to enhance the capital market at the national level, strong institutions should be built for the young people to enter the workforce by providing training in various sectors.

Having noted the absence of private financial institutions or investment banks that can facilitate loan for the young people, the Director General said that the main challenge is the lack of legal rules for the people involved in the sector.

The capital markets offer to fund riskier activities that would traditionally not be served by the banking sector and so contribute significantly to innovation in an economy, it was indicated.

Biruk mentioned that, for this, investors are conducting consultation works on how to establish a new investment bank and how the current banks of the country should work in the area of investment.

He pointed out that by taking experience from other countries; they are working to promote small and micro enterprises in the country into large investments.

ACCSA President Mesenbet Shenkute also stated that the capital market is crucial for enhancing Ethiopia's investment activity



Biruk Taye



Mesenbet Shenkute

and the economy of the country.

She added that the role of investors in the private sector is important creating a comfortable working environment where they can get money to operate in various investment fields and by overcoming the obstacles they face in their work.

The government must focus on building strong institutions and empowering professionals in a bid to own successful capital market, the president underlined.

News

Company donates education materials to MfM

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA—Krones LCS Center East Africa Ethiopia branch has donated essential electro-mechanical tools and equipment to Menschen fuer Menschen (MfM).

MfM Project Operation and Coordination Director Baritu Seyoum stated yesterday that the support is of paramount importance in providing quality training and education.

The donation worth 517,000 Birr and would be used for furthering development of Agro Technical and Technology College (ATTC) owned by MfM and promoting skilled labor in Ethiopia specifically in Harar campus, she noted.

ATTC commenced its teaching in 1992 in Ethiopia that received competent students all

over the nation by covering all accommodation and academic expenses, she said.

Krones East Africa LCS Center Middle East and Africa region Head Reinhold Jung on his part told *The Ethiopian Herald* that “Company will continue providing such materials in order to help students in advancing their skills in technology related sectors.”

Taking the opportunity he called on all companies which are operating their business around the world, to come and invest in Ethiopia.

The donation is aimed at strengthening the partnership between the two organizations, it was learnt.

Krones is the world’s largest manufacturer of bottling and package equipment.



Eying advanced military...

are citizens of neighboring countries. To modernize the teaching process, research-supported work is being done considering the national, regional, and international security situation.

The college has also conducted viable research that would serve as a pillar to building a professional army in Ethiopia. “A strong army that uses modern technology is only possible when there is a modern research mechanism.”

For Defense State Minister Martha Lewiji, Ethiopia’s peace, security, and sovereignty can be maintained only when it is possible to build a competent, up-to-date national defense force that uses modern technology. For this to happen, the army should be supported by studies and research and qualified by education and training.

The glitch that was noticed before the reform is being corrected by the current government. By safeguarding the sovereignty of Ethiopia and the safety of its people from the ever-

complicating security threat, lasting peace and democracy can be ensured only when a strong defense army and a strong institution can be built. “The government is working diligently in all fields to ensure this.

Building a strong, professional defense force that makes good use of technology will be realized when education and training institutions properly fulfill their assigned mission and work to create awareness supported by research and discussion. Education, training, and research are necessary for the government to achieve its goal of building a professional army, the state minister emphasized.

In the forum, participants drawn from various sectors exchanged views on range of issues, particularly ways to build a professional army and protect its national interest. The panel also intends to avail policy input for the government in its pursuit of building a formidable defense sector.

CBE’s profit rises to record...

Presenting the bank’s six-month performance report, CBE President Abie Sano said the bank was able to expand access, generate new customers, collect higher deposits, and record higher profits in the reported period. CBE, which announced the capability to collect additional deposits of 88.7 billion Birr in the reported period, said the total deposit was 978.8 billion Birr.

The bank has also secured 55.8 billion Birr in loan repayments and amassed 1.7 billion USD from various sources thereby achieving 111 percent of the plan in this regard.

Noting CBE provided 66.3 billion Birr loans in six-month, Abie indicated from the stated sum, 34.7 billion Birr was allocated to the private sector. Accordingly, the total amount of loans the bank disbursed for the public and private sectors reached 975.7 billion Birr.

Also, it was possible to provide 3.9 billion USD for foreign trade and other business activities that require foreign exchange.

“We secured 58.7 billion Birr in the reported period and the bank’s total assets reached 1.2 trillion Birr, while the capital increased to 60 billion Birr. By opening savings

accounts of 2.2 million new customers, our customer base reached 38.1 million.”

In terms of accessibility, CBE opened 55 new branches within six months thereby reaching the total number of branches to 1,879. The number of interest-free banking service branches (CBE Noor) has reached 130, and 1,815 branches of the bank are providing services through separate windows for this service.

The president further stated that more than 1.3 trillion Birr in payments have been made through the bank’s digital service options. “This has resulted in the digital system replacing the use of cash to account for 39.3 percent of total transactions.”

“Following the rapid development of the country, the number and scale of development projects conducted by the government and the private sector have increased significantly and the bank is rendering services that complement the overall progress.”

CBE is doing various activities to achieve its vision of becoming a world-class commercial bank that will determine the future of Ethiopia’s financial sector, he pointed out.

NDRMC distributes 71 percent...

supports that includes food and nonfood items, medical supplies, medicines, therapeutic foods and others.

As to the director, over 1,113,961 liters of fuel has been delivered to the areas and 29 international and local partners and government organizations have participated to support the needy using trucks and air transports.

The director also said that 1.6 billion Birr has been sent to Mekelle and Shire towns.

It is to be recalled that over 8.35 million citizens in the conflict-affected areas have received full-fledged first round humanitarian support following the peace agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF.

Ethiopia saves 15 bln Birr in blocking...

yesterday, INSA Director-General Solomon Soka noted the ability to block the repeated cyber-attacks which targeted government institutions and disrupt Ethiopia’s critical computer systems, is a clear manifestation of the country’s growing cyber resilience.

Thus, under cyber security vulnerability assessment, attempted cyber security attacks were made on 64 institutions (27 public and 37 private institutions). Around 340 vulnerability risks were also identified on the institution’s website, network infrastructure, mobile apps, and software, DDOS, and malware, among others.

INSA identified 2145 attempts of cyber security threat of which, around 2049 attempts were thwarted, while responsive action is ongoing for the rest of the attempt.

The director general also highlighted that INSA prevented 869 attempted cyber-attack which targeted major infrastructures. Moreover, financial and security institutions, media houses, higher education and Health institutions, key public and private institutions, regional bureaus were said to be the most targeted institutions.

“Had not been prevented, the cyber-attacks would have damaged infrastructure; interrupted major services, as well as incur huge financial loss and increased problems related to fraud, fake accounts, steal identities, defamation, etc.”

During the first half of the budget year,

INSA assessed the cyber security risk of eight media institutions on technology, the working system as well as human power perspectives and was able to identify that activist, state-sponsored actors, extremists, criminals, bad actors (ill-intended individuals) as the main threat agents.

Similarly, it has conducted a similar assessment of five security institutions and two major infrastructure-owned institutions. The motives behind the attackers are creating political, social, and economic unrest in the country.

Though the attempted cyber-attacks have shown decrement compared with last year’s similar period, he stressed that the target prioritized attacking a few institutions, which bring about significant damage to the nation’s diplomatic, social, political, and economic aspects at individual, institutional, and national levels.

Apart from the ongoing activities carried out to ensure the nation’s cyber security sovereignty, the director-general emphasized the need to further enhance awareness of individuals and institutions towards cyber-attack. “Considering the impact, institutions should implement activities to mitigate such attacks.”

Through the cyber security technology follow-up category, while 297 technology products were rejected due to security threats, 1383 and 13 products were fully and partially approved to enter the country respectively, he stated.

Opinion

Defense Preparedness

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Defense is a major component of national power in both the developed and the developing countries. In these countries, defense policy is a fundamental part of national security policies. It requires strategic decisions about the use of defense forces when a nation is faced with security problems. It is a major component of foreign policy that encompasses all defense, diplomatic, political, economic, social, and security issues of countries. Ethiopia is one of the countries that have been engulfed with these security issues. It has been at war with domestic and external enemies that aspired to dismember it. Ethiopia is a peace loving country that had been engaged in peacekeeping missions in African countries. But, its enemies from near and far had continuously been thriving to create civil disorder in the country using ethnic, religious and other vulnerabilities.

According to the foreign policy designed and implemented by the former Head of State Department, USA, Ethiopia must be “destabilized” at any cost. About four decades have elapsed since this policy was inscribed and declared in writing by H. Kissinger. This policy represented articulation of interests, purposes and goals of a superpower on a poverty-stricken developing country. This policy had caused internecine massacres among people of the same country in the past decades.

In some cases, they have succeeded in succeeding and declaring independence. But, this effort has been in vain, as most of these citizens left the newly independent country and migrated to other countries. All these were only indicators of short-run success for Western policy makers.

The defense policy of a country is continually concerned with the protection of its boundary and the citizens residing within it. The Ethiopian Defense Force is primarily concerned with maintaining the integrity of the country in line with the Constitution. The defense of the country is a very vital part of national security policy which addresses specific issues directly concerned with the nation and its territorial integrity. The role of the defense forces is to preserve the core values of survival and political independence of Ethiopia against any external or internal threats. The country had been attacked by the Italian Fascist forces during the WWI to subdue it to its colonial rule. Ethiopia had never been fully under the rule of Benito Amilcare Andrea Mussolini, who was the founder of the National Fascist Party. He had occupied only part of the country which was well protected by the Ethiopian Heroes who had never succumbed to the Fascist attractions with Lire and military decorations.

The history of defense had been repeated

in other fields of war of aggression. The Ethiopia Defense Forces had fought in the Korean War in the early 1950's and proved to the rest of the world that they were great fighters. They had also participated in peace keeping missions in several African countries.

Other aspirant liberation fronts had tried to dismember the country and liberate their localities but failed. The TPLF had conducted three wars against the Federal Government of Ethiopia, but it failed. Here, attempt is made only to indicate the human and material cost Ethiopia had faced in the last five decades due to wars of aggression.

The Ethiopian Defense Forces armed with their professional skills, materials, and ethics have greatly contributed to the nation building process.

Defense preparedness is an integral part of their defense structure. This preparation is mainly a reaction to circumstances under which specific arms are procured by adversaries. Defense specialists assess the strategic implications of the arms procured on the regional security environment of the Horn. But what is true is that a country should have a defense policy which is formulated rationally. It takes several constraints into account at the domestic level. The existence of a formal defense policy document does “not” by itself guarantee materially effective policy. Similarly, the “absence” of such a document does not imply lack of policy. This policy is kept secret by concerned officials of the defense forces.

In other countries, the “secret” nature of a formal document of Defense Policy does not hamper the process of responses to existing threats. The fact that it is kept secret does not mean that the Defense Forces do not respond to challenges and opportunities as they arise. If peace reigns for a long time, it does not imply that the country lacked the capacity to raise the level of its defense capacity. For some countries, “peace is not the absence of war.” Peace is guaranteed with well-organized defense capability. Such organization is realized only if sufficient resources are allocated to it. It is also closely supported by Defense research, which must be nurtured and encouraged as an essential part of Ethiopia's defense capability. In this endeavor it supports the economy in providing jobs for Ethiopians.

It is contended that research into key aspects of defense with the potential to advance technology provides the Defense Forces with a new capability when sent to battle fronts. Such research has the additional advantage of providing defense planners with the latest knowledge about the best practices in the area of defense and security. Moreover, national defense and security strategy are formulated through some fundamental considerations based on the security objectives and national interests. National defense and security

policy refers to the vision and mission of the government that are realized in a balanced and coordinated manner. To achieve this goal, the government has to develop a national defense and national security strategy. This includes strategic objectives on how to achieve the goals with resources for achieving strong and effective defense capabilities.

It may take any country some time to overcome the premeditated invasions by both external and domestic enemies. Ethiopia had repeatedly encountered surprise attacks by alien powers in alliance with domestic Bandas without any formal declaration of war. They knew in advance that they could not defeat the Ethiopian fighters. They had to conduct war of aggression with a goal of grabbing land from the country. When repulsed the offensive alien forces had to surrender to the Ethiopian army. Such victory had never been new to the army that proved its capability anywhere. Though well prepared, the chances of foreign attacks would still have occurred, but they would have failed. Domestically, there are power mongers with hidden agenda, which are fully supported by foreign powers.

The defense strategy and preparedness has to be supported with a policy that defines the ways in which it interacts with other foreign countries. Specifically, there may be a need for defense cooperation at regional level, among neighboring countries that may face the danger of instability. Regional instability should be kept at bay with close cooperation in every aspect, including engagement in border trade, business, investment and tourism with countries of the Horn. It is imperative to avoid disputes and conduct peace agreements that can be made between neighboring countries to promote defense capabilities. It is through “defense preparedness” that Ethiopia can create safe and peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries.

Defense specialists assert that “war never changes.” It is an act that will always be committed until the end of Man. The people who suffer the consequences are, most commonly, the soldiers who fight and die for ideals they may not even agree with. Erich Maria Remarque conveys not only the atrocities of war, but also the mental, physical, and emotional toll it takes on the soldiers fighting it. The Ethiopian soldiers fight in defense of the entity of the country, its freedom and sovereignty. The Ethiopian people have always been behind their Defense Forces that guarantee their freedom and dignity with its selfless continuous preparedness.

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

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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

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

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Editorial

Time-tested resolve to fight terrorists

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed crisscrossed the Horn of Africa in a span of few days with Somalia being his latest stop. The premier paid a visit to Sudan last week as he reaffirmed his country's readiness to bolster bilateral and regional cooperation. Ethiopia has been the linchpin in the peace and security of the region.

Considered an anchor state in the Horn, the country has been a major force behind the precarious region's stability. Having deployed peacekeeping forces in Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia, the country's contribution to curbing regional calamities has been indispensable. The country even maintained its commitment to regional peace by keeping its peacekeeping missions even when it was caught in internal conflicts. Ethiopia's troops under AMISOM have been a driving force in weakening the terrorist Al-Shebab group paving the way for a relatively stable Somalia. Ethiopia's forces have been successful combatants in executing operations. Some members of the mission have even paid the ultimate price in safeguarding the people of Somalia and Sudan.

Despite little headways, Al-Shabab and other militants pose an unprecedented security threat to the region. Terrorism has long become a regional problem with nations working together and signing security pacts to fight the common challenge.

And, lately, Prime Minister Abiy met with regional leaders conferring on a wide range of matters. Abiy arrived on Tuesday in Mogadishu, Somalia to participate in the regional forum convened towards strengthening the campaign against Al-Shabaab in East Africa.

The leaders' discussion, according to the PM Office, was aimed at providing regional solutions to regional problems. To this end,

it is expected that the countries of the region will jointly plan to eliminate terrorism, collect timely support, and advise on issues where they can combat terrorism in different ways.

The Premier, alongside his delegation, was received by Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Abshir Omar Jama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia

During his stay, Abiy also held a brief discussion with Ethiopian national defense forces who are deployed to fight al-Shabaab in Mogadishu under the auspices of the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

The Prime Minister's statement on Twitter indicated that he was briefed by members of ENDF operating in Somalia under ATMIS to fight Al-Shabaab terror group.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Kenyan President William Ruto have discussed ways of strengthening bilateral ties between their two countries on the sideline of the Somalia-Frontline States Summit. The two leaders explored ways of strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations through infrastructure development, increasing trade and investment as well as regional issues.

During his stay, Abiy vowed his country's resolve to overcome regional challenges and foster cooperation among the countries of the region toward integration. For quite a long now, Ethiopia has been an ardent protector of regional peace and left an indelible mark in the fight against Al-Shabab. Now that the country is able to restore internal stability, the country will continue to be at forefront of a regional effort to eradicate terrorism and ensure stability.

Opinion

Africa maintains its strategic interest in its diplomacy

BY STAFF REPORTER

Whenever Africa beefs up its ties with countries like China, Russia, and Turkey ...etc, the western media usually take it as their hobby to criticize the relationship and pick the negative aspect of it. But Africa is a big continent embracing about 55 sovereign countries with equal rights and responsibilities to global relations.

Gone are the days when African countries heed the calls and pressures of the west and subscribe to their dictations. In the past colonial period and during the times of the cold war, Africans have been coerced to adhere to the dictation of the west in exchange for economic and humanitarian aid.

Yet this has led to the prolonged dependency of the continent on the west during that time. Slowly creeping out of this aid dependency syndrome Africa has by now attained a level in which it determines its foreign policy based on its mere strategic interest as well as in line with principles of international relations.

After all, Africa needs to pursue diplomatic relations with all countries of the world that are based on cooperation, a win-win approach that is geared towards maximizing the economic benefit of the

peoples of the two sides, that maintains peace, security and prosperity.

Without any prejudice to the strong relations that Africa has with countries of the west and without belittling the important benefits it reaped from its cooperation with countries of the west, the continent needs to become self-decisive to govern its relations with the east too. At the end of the day, it has to formulate its foreign policies based on its interest, implement them as vigorously as it could and work responsibly towards its success.

To this end, the efforts of the African Union to expand its relations with the growing economically and politically influential countries of the world to maintain the strategic interest of the member states should be appreciated.

Accordingly, it has formed strong bilateral relations with world giants like China, India, Turkey, Russia, and Japan. Through time it is building up its economic and investment cooperation with these countries. As a result, it's become one of the largest destinations of foreign direct investment for these countries. It is becoming an important market for these countries too. Africa further benefits a lot from tourism and trade relations with

these parts of the world.

To quickly move out of the situation it is currently in at this moment, Africa needs to speed up its development endeavour in such a way that it can avail important infrastructure and public facilities like health, education, transportation, communication and energy, among others.

These are urgent issues for the continent that it has to fulfil at any cost. These services play a fundamental role in the overall transformation of the socio-economic situation of the people thereby significantly addressing the political problems too. If people get suitable transportation and communication infrastructure, they can easily say goodbye to poverty. There would be meaningful health improvement and education which also help in the overall transformation of society.

More importantly, the expansion of such facilities will also speed up the process of job creation. Creating as many jobs as possible in the continent is a critical intervention as the continent is endowed with a large proportion of the young and trainable workforce. Engaging this work force in an employment opportunity in the continent is a vital measure with a

lot of leverage. In addition to assisting the overall rapid development of the economy, it can contribute to reducing the possibility of the youth engaging in criminal activities, armed violence and joining a rebel or terrorist groups.

The continent's advancement in basic infrastructure and utilities as well as massive job creation was somehow able to move forward through its economic and investment relations with the countries like China, India and Turkey. The manufacturing industries, roads, telecommunication networks ... etc have played an undeniable role in carrying the continent's steps forward. Instead of the old-fashioned aid dependency that shackled the continent, it is this kind of economic and investment relations that it should further nurture to become fully independent and sovereign.

The same diplomatic principle works with all countries including the west for which Africa itself should take responsibility, and is doing. This being a fact, the continuous critics of the western media on the continent's growing ties with countries like Russia and China are far from good faith and lacks objectivity.

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

Business & Economy

Making industrialization pace prompt

BY MENGESHA AMARE

No one would argue against, I think, if it is said that the subsistence traditional agriculture production methods on which the majority of farmers have depended has to be transformed into the lucrative approach of designated manufacturing and industrialization.

Why developing countries like Ethiopia have, a crucial question indeed, so far failed, and lacked the ability, to transform their economy into the next level of success—Industrialization—has not yet been well dealt with. Needless to state, most developing countries such as ours whose economy highly depends on agriculture have to come up with a well-defined strategy to associate the sector with industry. True, agriculture has a potential to contribute to industrialization through providing raw materials, being source of income or government revenue, creating demand for foreign exchange.

Increasing the productivity and the income of the agriculture sector will increase in demand of industrial output and release of resources and raw materials like labor in a bid to allocate to the industry sector.

Having the priceless importance of linking agriculture sector with industrialization into account, this writer approached Lemma Onsho, an expert consulting industrial parks.

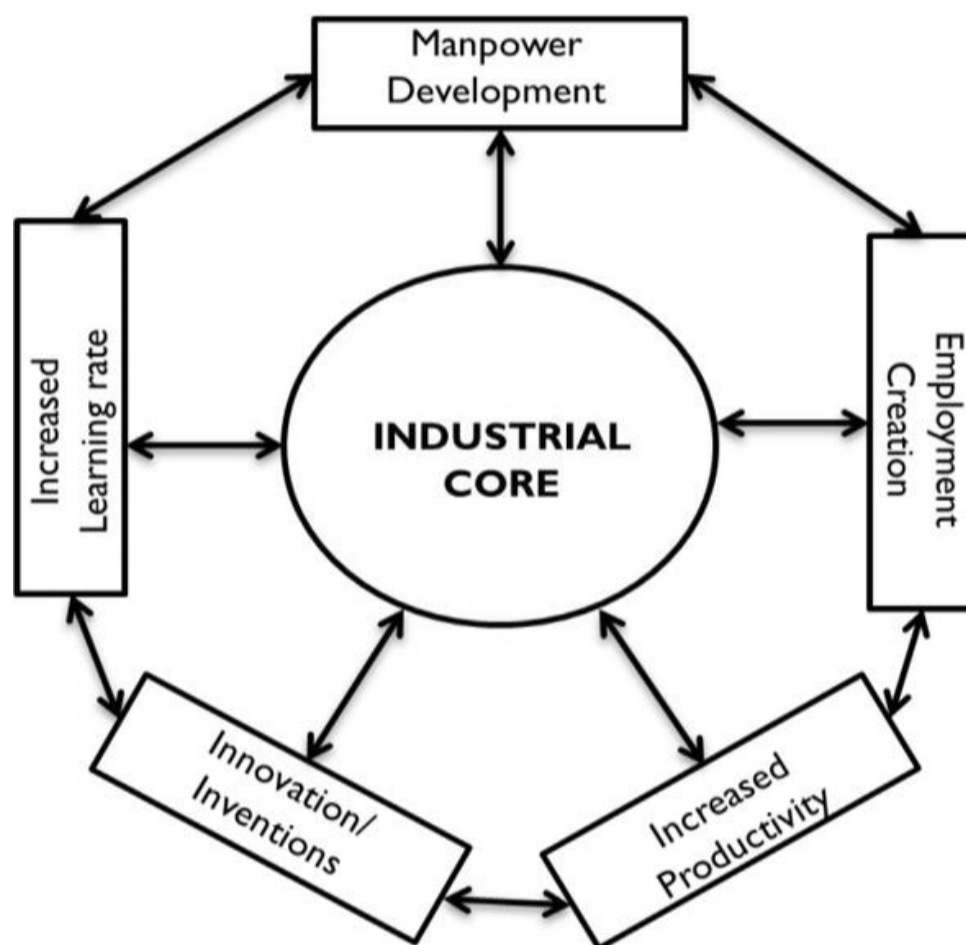
He said, “Agriculture has been playing and is playing a major role especially for countries which do have great comparative advantage in the sector. We do have historical examples in which agriculture grew relatively strongly prior to the period of full-scale industrialization and provided resources for mechanization.”

He further elucidated that agriculture creates strong production linkages and stimulate demand in the development process. It is important for developing countries like Ethiopia to adopt agriculture led and rural development so as to achieve industrialization.

Agriculture can contribute a significant share to the industrialization process thereby fighting against poverty alleviation. Besides, the industrialization process would be of a viable avenue for increasing farmers’ income indirectly through the adoption of improved techniques which in turn increase agricultural output and therefore their revenue.

Ethiopia has to draw important lessons from well experienced countries if it is committed to be triumphant over poverty and sluggish way of agricultural operation.

“Most definitely, we can take South Korea’s experience as a good model to draw imperative lesson and to excellently reply to our quests. South Korea is one



of the late industrialized countries, which has transformed its economy from basket case to power house. Korea was one of the poorest countries in the 1950’s, obvious. The question here is how Korea could achieve this within the shortest time possible,” he inquired.

There are a number of means to foster the supplementary and determined stance of the two crucial sectors. Selective intervention in terms of providing appealing environment for industrial actors to work more, fostering trade openness and technological transfer, undertaking strong macroeconomic monitor to stabilize the economy, among others are the fundamental steps to be taken to well employ industrialization.

Yes, he further said that engaging in the international market is the most important factor which has made a big influence to industrialization process. The rapid pace of growth and industrialization of developing countries such as Ethiopia would benefit much out of the untapped resources. Thus, the experience of rapid growth and industrialization in South Korea is a miraculous move to change the entire world if exploited well, he added.

He also said that the Ethiopian export boom has to be made sustained though it is at its infancy. “We have to produce raw materials, process and distribute finished goods using industrialization process as we have all what is required. No doubt, agriculture, apart from being the mainstay of the country’s economy, has a potential to contribute to industrialization via providing raw materials and other relevant requirements.”

It is also quite important to note that high

agriculture productivity plays a major role in structural transformation as it is of significantly useful in allocating resource to other non-agricultural sectors and attracting technological transfer.

According to Lemma, a sound and robust policy measure is the essence for economic development and industrialization achievement thereby lifting many out of poverty. Ethiopia has followed Agriculture development led to industrialization (ADLI) as a leading and overall national economic framework strategy to fight poverty, indeed!

As ADLI policy strongly considers that small holder farmers in the agriculture sector can generate wealth and transform the economy to the next level of success, the government has to identify key impediments to implement the policy and provide major actors with all what is required with a view to helping the country conquer poverty.

Undoubtedly, industrialization in Ethiopia has still been very slow in terms of structural transformation. Hence, the policy should be more concretized and should address implementation problems to bear the anticipated goals in time and compatible with today’s vigorous global setting.

As to him, industrialization is the evolution of transform from a basic agrarian economy to an industrialized state, and what Ethiopia has now been entertained is this viable avenue.

Alemayehu Asres is another person whom this writer talked to about change and real growth. He is an economist working for a consultancy firm. He said, “Unequivocally, changing first state economy to the next level necessitates commitment, sacrifice,

sense of belongingness and well-founded will. Almost all developed countries had paid the cost to get all the advantage of industrialization where they are at present. Industrialization is the basis of sustainable economic development, the way to increase production, means to eliminate poverty and making a country a well-to-do, physically powerful and defensive.”

Ethiopia has been taking measures to transform its economy and to increase the growth and share of industry over a decade on the basis of agriculture as source of income, revenue and raw materials for the industry sector. Yes, although taking agriculture as a leading sector and source of livelihood to the majority of the population is common in the country, lack of financial and skill human resource have been notorious bottlenecks in due course of allocating to the industry sector, he added.

Despite many constraints in the agriculture sector as the sector depends on rain and traditional subsistence farming, terms of trade and volatility of price of agriculture products in the international market, the Ethiopian government has also taken agriculture as a leading growth strategy to achieve industrialization, and agriculture has still continued playing a pivotal role to sustaining the national economy.

As to him, it is well acknowledged that Ethiopia is endowed with large number of working age population and large number of small holding potential cultivated land. Besides, the country has been experiencing remarkable economic growth over the years.

As industrialization is replacing basic agrarian primary sector to secondary one, it is difficult to see industrialization and economic development separately nowadays. Not only does economic development deal with increasing goods and services but it also contains development of the wellbeing of a society and sustainable economic growth, he added.

He said, “The countries which have achieved industrialization have experienced the highest level of economic development, and most industrialized countries have showed that they could create huge domestic or external market for their strategic sector at least at the transition time.”

In a nutshell, measures like providing small holder farmers with technology and better farming practices, improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, rural roads, and marketing services need to be well introduced to increase agricultural production, and a rise in agricultural output in turn is expected to stimulate industrial production by providing food and industrial materials thereby establishing a link between the rural and urban sectors. The negative impacts of industrialization have to be well managed, too.

Art & Culture

The Oscars versus the African movie academy awards

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

No African film was nominated for this year's Academy awards and this should not come as a surprise. Hollywood is a huge institution that is always captive of its own narcissism and allergic to foreign films in general and films about or made by black people in particular. Africa has so far produced great film makers but none of them had made it to the Hollywood Hall of Fame simply because there is no one in Hollywood who thinks that black people or Africans are capable of making films "that sell".

Among the greats of African cinema are Senegalese Sembene Ousman, whom the Los Angeles Times once described him as "one of the greatest authors of Africa and he has often been called the father of African film" The Ethiopian film maker Haile Gerima was described by Wikipedia as "a leading member of the LA Rebellion film movement, also known as the Los Angeles School of Black Filmmakers. His films have received wide international acclaim." There are prominent South African, Nigerian, Egyptian and other African filmmakers who enjoy similar accolades but are often ignored by the Hollywood film establishment because of their origins.

The case of Haile Gerima is typical. He is an independent as well as a talented and versatile producer, film maker, director and script writer who carried the heavyweight of professional responsibility is producing some of his most acclaimed movies like *Adwa* (About the first African victory over a European power)

Sankofa - about the slave trade in Africa comparable to *Roots*. He was also a professor of film art at Howard University in the United States.

Haile has made other films worth mentioning but it would be more relevant here to focus on his most famous 2008 movie known as *Teza*, a 140-minute feature drama based on a screenplay by Haile Gerima and also directed by him. As he made it clear in many interviews and statements, Haile had tried to secure funds from European film companies and cultural institutions to turn his scripts that are still languishing in his desk drawer into films with co-production with other partners. It was only after all his efforts came to naught that Haile started to rely on his scarce financial resources to make his own films and achieved success.

The few black actors and actresses who made it to the top of the American film

industry could only do so by overcoming the institutional racism that is inherent within the American film industry. Compared to white actors, the black stars can be counted on the fingers of both hands.

The American movie industry often plays politics in selecting movies for screening and possibly lucrative incomes at the box office. The first unstated mission of Hollywood is to reflect an image of American invincibility across the world and serve as soft power to brainwash unsuspecting audiences about America's greatness, attractiveness or it being the "land of opportunities". This is big politics of course.

Hollywood is also good at selecting movies that make money because as the biggest stakeholder of the international movie business, Hollywood always tries to get movie that are timely and potentially record breakers at the box office.

One of the nominations for best adapted films categories this year was a film called *All Quiet on the Western Front* about the first world war that critics consider the best movie to come out of that war. This particular film was nominated apparently because of its marketing potentials at a time when the world is anxious about the Ukraine-Russian conflict that is escalating dangerously as we jot these words.

The movie industry leaders might have guessed that this particular film must be suited for the time as international attention is fixated on the Ukraine war and that could trigger a massive international distribution frenzy and a mountain of cash. It is not unusual for Hollywood to make money out of human sufferings by touching at their right instincts at a particular time.

Black in 2018, a feature film about Africa called *Black Panther* made history as the first film made by an Africa that won the greatest accolade in Western film industry. In 2018, *Black Panther* was nominated for seven awards at the 91st Academy awards, won three and other accolades. According to Wikipedia, *Black*

Panther was, "The first superhero film to receive a Best Picture nomination and the first film to win several categories. A sequel to *Black Panther*; *Wakanda Forever* which was released in November 2022 while a television series set in *Wakanda* is under development by Disney."

No African film, except one, has ever won an Oscar and that was a South African production called "*Tsotsi*" that won the coveted award for best foreign language film back in 2006. According to available

information, "In nearly 75 years, the Oscar for best international film has only gone to an African production three times and a Bollywood production has never won one. Europe dominates the category."

As we know, most Bollywood productions consist of songs and dances and story lines that are produced and reproduced many times with different settings. Most of the "famous" Indian films are based on the charisma of the handful of actors and actresses that are featured in most films. Special effect films are rare while fantasy films seem to lack appeal in India where most of the films are screened. According to another opinion, "The Oscars are just market game and anyone who can attract the attention of the Academy with good marketing has a better chance of being nominated."

According to another source, "the success of *Sotsi* is not entirely a coincidence, as Steve Ayorinde, a Nigerian film critic who has been a juror at international film festivals such as Cannes, Berlin and Toronto pints out. Many of the South African films that gain international attention are directed by white filmmakers, as was the case for *Sotsi* director Gavin Hood."

The problem with African films has never been one of talent or quality of production but lack of support from established studios or production companies.

According to Ayorinde, "A number of African films are always on the sidelines of major festivals. But then who pushes them? Without collaborations, without support, without a major American or European institution or production companies investing in such a film, it will be difficult to market African films in the world."

The point is that black filmmakers have long proved themselves capable of producing movies that are equal to or surpassing those produced by the American film establishment and their business affiliates who spend hundreds of millions of dollars to produce films of their choice while refusing to support serious African film makers whose styles and themes are often unpleasant, militant by the standards of Hollywood or similar institutions in Europe that are fond of making a lot of money-spinning rubbish or infantile productions in the name of entertainment.

Africa had no alternative other than establishing its own film academies, and educational institutions although the money for such projects is often hard to come by. Ethiopia for instance has a history of filmmaking that spans many

decades or almost a century but she has no film academy. Many African countries deserve or ought to develop their movie industries through educating the younger generation and producing films that appeal to African audiences and deal with African history and societies and related problems.

The establishment of the little known African Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) aimed at presenting annual awards to recognize excellence among professionals working in or non-African Professionals who have contributed to the African film industry. The award which is run through the African film Academy "aimed at honoring and promoting excellence in the African movie industry as well as uniting the African continent through arts and culture."

Our first impressions of America and India or any other country is formed through their films as a powerful tool for projecting their values and histories. Even China which was once closed to the outside world, is nowadays playing catch up with Western film industries not only for the money that it generate but also for project China to the world as a modern, and developing country with a rich amazing and ancient history.

The Ethiopian film industry has all the factors that could make it a success story judging by past achievements and the production good films. It has a long history of film making and theatre production as well as very good actors and actresses despite the fact that they are seldom trained or educated in the arts of acting as there is no school for acting in the country. Ethiopia has also amazing landscapes suited for film locations and diverse communities with rich story telling traditions.

As indicated above, the problem with the industry is money that could be invested in good productions. Investment in filmmaking is haphazard while potential investors have not yet developed the confidence in and the knowledge of making films that are often lucrative.

There are also shortcomings on the part of the cultural institutions that are not paying sufficient attention to the promotion of the Ethiopian film industry that could be useful in promoting the country's image and attract foreigners to visit the exotic places that could be projected on the silver screen. The culture and tourism authorities should therefore invest time and money in the promotion and support of the country's film industry not as a marginal activity but as an indispensable factor of economic development and image building initiatives.

Science & Technology

Modern technologies in the agriculture sector sounds success in Ethiopia's lowlands

COMPILED BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia is a large country with still having large uncultivated land. Its agricultural production though hasn't even satisfied local demand. Wheat production in particular has been low as it is importing from abroad to satisfy local demand. The potential especially the wide uncultivated arable land was for time overlooked. Dryness of the region having low rainfall and disuse of modern irrigation systems made these potential left untapped up to this time.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahemd administration however didn't take time to realize this. In a bid to radicalize the agriculture sector, Prime Minister Abiy introduced a campaign to increase wheat production especially by exploiting the vast untapped in lowland areas of Ethiopia. The initiative is just poised to fulfill local demand but it was an ambitious dream of making Ethiopia famous wheat exporter. In order to achieve this goal, the vast lands in lowlands of Ethiopia, in Afar and Somalia regional states should be farmed with modern technologies. Water should also be available by modern irrigation systems.

As a result this continued effort yielded fruit. During the past three years, wheat productivity in the lowland areas of Ethiopia became the new normal. Ethiopia's annual wheat productivity before the new initiative was increasing annually 50 million to 55 million quintals; majority of the productivity from the highland areas of Ethiopia was produced using natural rainfall only. But, at that time, the annual wheat demand of Ethiopia was 65 million to 70 million quintals. Ethiopia had to import over 20 million quintals of wheat to meet the demand costing it foreign currency in billions of dollars.

Ethiopia's wheat production is now on the right track covering the local demand from local production and it eyeing to start export by this year. This dramatic change and development was unthinkable without implementing modern technological materials and systems. Cluster farming, extensive investment in modern irrigation facilities, introducing modern agricultural technologies like combiner, tractor and other facilities helped the country to exploit its untapped potential in the sector.

The paradox in Ethiopian agriculture is 67% of Ethiopians engaged in agriculture, there is a vast land but it isn't even food sufficient. Researchers point out country's strong adherence to traditional ox plowing is the very reason for its poor agricultural productivity. Therefore, introduction of new technologies in the agriculture sector is crucial. The premier's initiative is as a result initiating the farmers to detach from the old ways and embrace modern farming techniques and tools and accelerate country's journey to food self-sufficiency.

Implementation of this initiative, introduction of agricultural technologies to farmers through government purchase and farmers themselves buying in group



(Ethiopian farmers growing TAAT-funded heat-tolerant wheat use whips and whistles to deter birds from eating wheat crops, picture from Africa Development Bank website)

has been promising. The production especially in lowland areas has been a resounding success. The effort also enjoyed continental and international recognitions. Media reported Ethiopia's jump in wheat production as some dubbed Ethiopia a model for African nations in wheat productivity. Senior officials of the World Bank and the African Development Bank are surprised by the success while they paid visit to some of the lowland agricultural sites covered by wheat.

Recently an article was published at the African Development Bank Group's (AfDB) website with the title, "Whistles and whips: Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation program results in sounds of success in Ethiopia's lowlands." The article was published after officials from AfDB visited an agricultural field around Korofto area in Adama District, in Ethiopia. The author of the piece writes the field visit attractive as follows.

If the shrill sounds of policemen's whistles echoing across Ethiopia's Awash River Valley do not seem out of place, the crack of whips in the air will have some visitors to these irrigated wheat fields wondering what is going on at this patch of remote farm cooperative.

A short walk through the thigh-high wheat stalks reveals farm workers blowing whistles and waving whips to scare away quelea, a destructive bird species flocking to the fields to peck away at maturing wheat grains.

Farmer Yilma Mamo says the cacophony of sound to rid fields of the birds is actually a testament to success of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation initiative, or TAAT.

The TAAT program, launched in 2018, is an integral part of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy 2016-2025. TAAT's overall objective is to harness proven technologies to raise agricultural productivity in Africa, as well as mitigate risks and promote diversification and processing in 18 agricultural value chains within eight priority intervention areas. Overall, TAAT will produce 100 million metric tons of additional food to feed 200 million people.

In Ethiopia, TAAT is providing tens of thousands of smallholder farmers like Mamo with heat-tolerant wheat varieties that produce more profitable harvests compared to traditional crops like vegetables.

"Over the years, I grew tomatoes, onions, pepper and cabbage. The cost of production was very high and the market for produce was volatile—sometimes we lost money," said Mamo, who has been farming here since 1969, adding that birds didn't attack his veg. He explained that the cost of wheat production is very low and "the profits are good"—providing food and financial security for his family and community.

"Scaring the birds away takes a lot of effort. [But] I prefer producing wheat, even though the birds are here," Mamo said.

Mamo is one of more than 28,000 Ethiopian farmers who have received TAAT-funded wheat seed since 2018 with a TAAT Wheat Compact, led by the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas, and the Ethiopian National Agricultural Research Institute.

In Ethiopia's lowlands like Adama District, about 100 kilometers southeast of capital Addis Ababa, wheat farming is relatively new. The Ethiopian government program approached farmers and provided training on growing the heat-tolerant grains where daytime temperatures can reach 35 degrees Celsius. "Before that, we didn't know wheat could thrive well in these areas," Mamo said.

Farmers receive loans from the government to cover 80% of costs for land preparation, seeds, fertilizer and mechanized equipment for harvesting. The loans are paid back at harvest.

"Heat-tolerant wheat varieties are able to withstand the lowlands' high temperatures. In essence, these plants can thrive where ordinary wheat varieties would struggle to produce as much grain," said Dr. Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, following a recent visit to Mamo's farm. The farm is part of a 280-member farmers' cooperative.

"It is critical that Africa's farmers have the

technology-enabled tools and knowhow to unleash Africa's agricultural potential – the Bank's TAAT initiative is working with our regional member countries to deliver those agricultural technologies to better enable the continent to feed itself," Dunford added.

In Ethiopia, following the nationwide deployment of heat-tolerant wheat varieties, the irrigated-wheat area expanded from less than 5,000 hectares in the 2018-19 farming season to 650,000 hectares in the 2021-22 seasons. Wheat yields doubled and Ethiopia's wheat production increased by an additional 1.6 million metric tonnes in 2022. The country says it achieved wheat production self-sufficiency last year and that it is poised to export wheat for the first time.

"We're proud of what Ethiopia has achieved. We've seen similar TAAT success in Zambia, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Kenya and other countries," said Dr. Martin Fregene, the Bank's Director for Agriculture and Agro-Industry. "African farmers can feed their countries and build resilience to shocks to the continent's food systems if they adopt, at scale, improved seeds from the TAAT wheat and other agriculture compacts," Fregene added.

In July 2022, the Bank Board approved an additional \$27.41 million to implement Phase II of TAAT. TAAT aims to make proven technologies available to more than 40 million agricultural producers across Africa – the majority of whom are young people and women in low-income countries - by 2025. This financing supports expansion of the TAAT platform that has also delivered heat-tolerant wheat varieties, drought-tolerant maize varieties and high-yield rice varieties to 11 million farmers, as well as increased crop production by an estimated 25 million tons of additional food.

The TAAT initiative will be one of the African-led solutions increasing the continent's food production capacity, at the Dakar 2 Africa Food Summit to be held from 25-27 January. President Macky Sall of Senegal, and Chairperson of the African Union, will host the three-day summit. The African Development Bank Group is co-hosting the summit.

Society

Implementing new approaches, averting corruption

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, corruption has become a severe problem in most developing countries. The impact of corruption increases as the level of accountability is limited and the government's measures on the issue are lower. Most countries like China have registered promising changes through controlling corruption. Thus, understanding the massive damage of corruption, different countries are showing a genuine commitment to fight corruption and cultivate a strong sense of accountability among the new generations.

By considering corruption and its adverse impact to the overall social, economic and political development of the nation the Ethiopian government has taken several measures and introduced a new National Anti-Corruption Coordinating Committee aimed at fighting and exposing grand corruptions committed with some irresponsible officials. The newly organized committee sought to bear fruits since its initiation and citizens are also expressing their views optimistically and the National Anti-Corruption Coordinating Committee has reviewed the work done so far in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Currently, the national anti-corruption committee which was established to coordinate its anti-corruption campaigns in November, 2022 is undertaking various measures to maintain accountability and rule of law. According to the office of the prime minister, thus far, a large number of corruption-related tips have been received from the public. The committee is having this examined and so far 110 investigation cases have been initiated.

As the National Anti-Corruption Coordinating Committee is doing its level



best to fight corruption, higher educational institutions are also showing an increasing interest to fight corruption by conducting researches and support government's effort in the area. On its recent external validation workshop that focused on corruption and brokerage, the Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) Research and Community Service Division, indicated that beside the teaching-learning process higher education institutions have responsibilities to contribute their share so as to curtail corruption and related cases. In this regard, Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) Research and Community Service Division, Board Chairman Temesegen Burka (PhD) indicated that the ESCU has made a noble contribution to conducting research that would greatly benefit the country to overcome such pressing challenges. "We strongly recommend the government to take the research as input to improve its policies and successfully curtail corruption. As corruption harms the overall economy and the livelihood of citizens, meaningful

involvement of all relevant actors is highly desirable."

On his part, ECSU President, Prof. Fikre Desalegn, explained that the university has various partnerships with pertinent stakeholders to ensure social justice and contain corruption and other forms of malpractice. "Our study identifies corruption's immense impact on Ethiopia's overall development and our aim is to help the government's efforts by providing policy inputs."

Commenting on the issue to *The Ethiopian Herald*, ECSU Center for Ethics and Integrity Researcher Solomon Molla (PhD) stated that the introduction of a digitized revenue collection system would play a vital role in easing corruption and other related malpractices witnessed in the area. By the same token, it was reported that implementation of an online tax collection system is instrumental to contain corruption and other fraudulent practices and boost the government's revenue, research

conducted in the area recommended.

"Apart from the technological intervention, bringing to justice individuals taking in corruption is something worth equal consideration." Noting the expansion of corruption into new areas including health and tourism, the researcher also pointed out that increasing awareness of the public and making them part of the solution would bring the desired outcomes. Putting strong legal measures on corrupted officials and other violators would also have a critical role in preventing the problem.

In sum, it is high time to investigate corruption issues and provide immediate solutions to the public grievances related to the issue. Moreover, active community mobilization is fundamental to control the grand corruption done by some irresponsible officials, investors, and individuals. Doing this immensely contributes to building a strong Ethiopia that ensures the equal and equitable use of resources and public services among every citizen.

How to help your child if they are not happy with their exam results

BY STAFF REPORTER

Recently, Ethiopian Ministry of Education has announced the results of Secondary School Leaving Certificate Exam. It seems that many feel disappointed in response to the exam results. On the one hand, there is the feeling of completeness because the school years are done. On the other, there is a basket of emotions: stress, anxiety and excitement at the prospect of the unknown. Indisputably, the results dictate whether you qualify to apply to a tertiary institution or not; this big deal in a society that sees university qualifications as the ideal (or only) path to wealth, image and fame. University qualifications are also viewed as superior to vocational training.

So, those who don't achieve the required exam marks will not be able to attend university. It can shatter dreams and cause huge disappointment, along with feelings of failure, hopelessness and helplessness. The way a parent or caregiver responds in this situation is extremely important.

As a researcher specializing in parent-child

relationships, here's my advice for guiding children through what can be a tough, scary and disappointing time.

There are four key things your children need to hear if they are disappointed and feeling like a failure:

- Getting up after a fall is important
- Success is relative: everyone is different and has different abilities
- There are many ways to achieve success other than getting a university degree
- As a parent you believe your child is capable of doing anything.

This kind of positive, loving support is critical. The research I've conducted with various colleagues' shows that parents are important in adolescents' decision-making, life goals and aspirations. They also play a key role in shaping teens' psychological wellbeing, as well as modeling both healthy and risky behaviors.

Negative parenting practices like rejection, neglect psychological control, pressure to perform; overprotectiveness and indulgent parenting are associated with difficulty in

making good decisions. Children may panic about making decisions, become indecisive – especially about career choices – or make risky decisions.

It is normal for parents to be disappointed that their child's results were not as expected. However, as a start, take a deep breath and realize that your child is struggling to come to terms with their results, too, and may believe they are a failure. This is not the time to scold and berate them about not achieving.

Remember, the Grade 12 year that's just passed has, by and large, been about achieving success and feeling the pressure to perform. This situation just amplifies their stress and anxiety.

Taking a deep breath allows for calmness in your approach to supporting your child. A more positive approach, which includes being responsive, supportive, and approachable, encouraging and understanding, would be very helpful as a start to diffusing a very emotional situation for your child.

Allow your child to talk about how they're feeling about the outcome, without inter-

rupting. It would be a good idea to find out if your child has thoughts about the way forward. This could be the first of a few paced conversations over a few weeks. This will allow for some perspective and give your child the chance to think things through. That helps them to develop feelings of ownership in decision-making as well as boosting their confidence and competence. This is important for the satisfaction of psychological needs to achieve psychological wellbeing.

If they haven't thought about what comes next, you could consider exploring the options together; building a plan B and C since plan A was not achieved. For instance, your child could request re-marks for subjects where they expected to perform better.

Monitor your child and their wellbeing in this time. You may feel that you need to draw in others, such as a counselor, psychologist or social worker, or a teacher or friend your child is close to, to help map out the next steps, providing options or just as an additional support for you and your child.



This is Ethiopia

Agew horse riders' festival promotes tourism, social interaction

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia, home to diversified tangible and intangible cultural heritages, is known for various annual colourful festivals including the prominent Timket (Baptism of the Jesus Christ), Meskel (founding of the true Cross), among others attracts numerous international tourists and local tourists. This season is a peak moment where several international tourists are seen traveling to Ethiopia to attend such colourful festivals that are held throughout the country. In January, annually tourists will have the opportunity to attend the Genna (Ethiopian Christmas) celebration at Lalibela and Timket in Gondar. The beautiful Agew Horse Riders Association festival which is colourfully celebrated annually at Injibara is another special event both local and international tourists love to attend.

The 83rd annual Agew Horse Riders Association festival was colourfully celebrated last Tuesday at Injibara. On the festival numerous Diasporas, tourists, higher officials, cultural researchers, and other participants took part.

Horse is everything for Agew people. The Agew community has a strong attachment with their horses. Horses have a big role for Agew people in almost every walk of their life: during war, marriage, funerals, farming, among other events. Currently, the annual festival is registered as an intangible heritage of the country under the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCH). Members of the association are also increasing year after year. Currently, the association has more than 67,000 members.

Injibara University President and the 83rd Agew Horsemen Festival celebration Committee Member, Gardachew Worku (PhD) said that the annual Agew Horsemen Festival celebration has a great role in promoting the social interaction of the Agew community. Currently, the university is working with pertinent stakeholders to register the festival under the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

As to him, the annual festival had been practiced for the last 83 plus years through portraying the Agew people unique socio-cultural manifestations and this culture is still intact. The festival has now gained momentum through attracting numerous international and local tourists and become a pivotal way to encourage the area's tourist's inflow.

"The presence of such an annual festival encourages on-going and new investments in the area. Various tourist service providers are invited to join investment in Agew and utilize the untapped investment



opportunities of the area", he said.

He further said that apart from the social and historical benefits provided by the Agew Horsemen Association to its members and the local community, efforts are underway to build a Horsemen Festival Show Center that has a great economic benefit to the country.

Currently, the association is discharging various social responsibilities though the fundamental objective was to commemorate the role of the horses during the war. Apart from being a commemoration festival, the event is playing a key role in conflict resolution, promoting cooperation and serving as a traditional court which is more acceptable by the community than formal legal institutions.

According to him, the Agew people are known for their ancient architecture, indigenous knowledge and hardworking culture, and the Agew Horsemen's Association has become a symbol and manifestation of the Agew people.

The president said: "Currently, when Ethiopians think of this Association, they think of the people of Agew and vice versa as both are two sides of the same coin. The festival is becoming a wonderful Ethiopian festival. Before the actual day, various programs and events are held to beef up the essence of the event."

On his part, Awi Zone Chief Administrator, Engida Dagne said, the Agew Horse riding festival is a unique manifestation of the people of Agew. Due to that reason, several local and international tourists attend the program to witness the event. Engida said, this unique festival should be preserved and promoted to other places of the world so as to attract more tourists. On his message, Engida has also called all Ethiopians to play their part to enable the festival to be registered in UNESCO. "All Ethiopians at home and abroad are expected to exert utmost effort to this end. More importantly,



annually celebrating the festival should not lose the main manifestations of the socio-cultural identities of the Agew people and effectively utilizing this festival will immensely contribute to the socio-economic development of the area."

The Agew Horse Riders Association was established in connection with the Golden Victory of Adwa over the Italian aggressors. The horse riders and fighters of the Agew people established the association as soon as returning from the battle of Adwa. The festival perfectly suits to explore the then roles of Ethiopian fighters and commemorate how the brave fighters of the Agew people enthusiastically fought against all odds in the past on the back of their horses.

Sources indicated that in the 1930's the people of Agew Awi (*Sebat Bet Agew*) joined patriots who waged guerrilla warfare against Fascist Italian invaders with other Ethiopians. Agew patriots utilized a rich

tradition of horse riding skills to fight and transport logistics for war by then. Agew Awi Zone, is one of the zones in Amhara state found to the South and South West of the State capital, Bahir Dar. The name *Sebat Bet Agew* (seven families of Agew) was coined from the name of seven brothers; Ankesha, Banja, Kuakura, Dangila, Metekel, Zigem and Azena.

After the total defeat and departure of Italy from Ethiopia, *Sebat Bet Agew* Equestrian Association (*Yesebat Bet Agew* /Seven Houses of Agew/Horsemen Association) was established to commemorate the role of horses and St. George in clearing the invading army from the land. Over the past years, the festival has been celebrated in nine towns and hosted in turn. This year's 83rd Agew Horsemen Festival has been completed and colourfully celebrated with six types of horse shows and a range of other ceremonial occasions that have been made since September.