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Premier tours Czech's agricultural technologies, tourism, cultural heritages

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA— Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his delegation have visited sites in Czech Republic in line

with the Ethio-Czech expanding areas of cooperation in agriculture, tourism and culture.

Accordingly, the prime minister and his delegation have visited agricultural

technologies, mineral and cultural heritages in Prague.

On November 28, Prime Minister Abiy and his Czech counterpart Petr Fiala have talked on ways

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Gov't allots over 7.9 bln Birr to humanitarian response

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA— The government has allotted over 7.9 billion Birr in two rounds to distribute humanitarian assistance to 7.3 million people in need, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) said.

See Gov't allots over... Page 3

Diasporas pledge professional, technical support for ENDC

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Having hailed the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission's (ENDC) call for their direct participation in the dialogue processes, Members of the Ethiopian Diaspora have vowed professional and technical support.

Ustaz Jemal Beshir, from the U.S, told the Ethiopia Press Agency (EPA) that Diaspora community is willing to contribute to the home country's peace and stability and would play a crucial role in making the dialogue successful.

"The commission has made commendable activities in making Ethiopians living abroad to partake in national issues and I



Ustaz Jemal Beshir



Ermias Mekonnen



Azeb Alfred

hope the Diaspora will make active engagement in the dialogue processes."

Jemal also called on fellow Ethiopian Diasporas to join hands for peace, unity, and consensus that the commission is also working for.

Ermias Mekonnen, another Diaspora, also appreciated the ENDC's directive that is permitting Ethiopians abroad to participate in the much-anticipated political process.

The ENDC held various discussions with

See Diasporas pledge ... Page 3

Ethiopia generating more power to meet local, regional demands

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia is undertaking various projects to generate more energy that meet local and regional demands, so said Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP).

EEP Chief Executive Representative, Andualem Sia' told local media that it will be quite possible to create regional integration via providing neighboring countries with

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Multifaceted benefits of minerals development

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Why Africa's artistic renaissance is becoming a vibrant reality

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Selamawit Kassa

Ethiopia, Czech to hoist cooperation to high level

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Leaders of Ethiopia and Czech Republic vowed to hoist the two countries' partnership in areas of agriculture, mining, tourism and diplomacy to a high level, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said.

GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa told EBC that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his Czech counterpart Petr Fiala held a fruitful deliberation in Prague that aimed at replicating the two countries' deep-rooted historical ties in different areas of cooperation.

The leaders also exchanged views on the resumption of direct flights to Prague that help boost the two countries' business-to-business cooperation and foster the cargo transport and export volume.

Apart from the people-to-people ties, a consensus was reached to bolster the cooperation in agriculture, mining, tourism and defense sectors. "As well, the parties agreed to heighten the Ethio-Czech military cooperation, especially in air force training and capacity building," Selamawit added.

Moreover, the two countries agreed to establish an economic cooperation commission which helps to implement the signed agreements meaningfully and timely.

The state minister further noted that the Premier's visit would pave the way to explore new areas of cooperation whilst cementing the existing ones. The visit also facilitates more business-to-business linkage between the two countries and has ample diplomatic gains. "The government of Czech Republic has listed Ethiopia as one its six key development partners."

The visit is also of great importance to expand the Ethio-Czech cooperation in agriculture, tourism and culture areas and it is significant milestone to attract substantial investment and supplement Ethiopia's efforts to ensure food security.

While visiting Czech's historic national museum, the Premier called on Czech stakeholders to engage in national museum development and experience sharing in Ethiopia, Selamawit remarked.

It is to be recalled that the Czech Prime Minister recently visited Ethiopia and held a promising discussion with Prime Minister Abiy in health, defense, and culture and tourism sectors among others.

UN commemorates Int'l Day of Solidarity with Palestine people

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –The United Nations commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine people at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa compound.

At the commemoration ceremony yesterday, Chief of Cabinet of MoFA Ambassador Eshete Tilahun said that Ethiopia stands firm to suggest solutions for both states and underscores the ongoing humanitarian pause and hostage release which is recently announced.

He underscored that Ethiopia has been persistently calling for a negotiated settlement of the problem with the resumption of direct negotiations between the two parties.

Having said protecting civilians is a cornerstone of the international law, Amb. Eshete reaffirmed that Ethiopia is continues to support and promote a principled and realistic peace plan side-by-side in peace and mutual security.

"Ethiopia reaffirms its consistent and unwavering support to the people of Palestine in their journey to achieve their inalienable rights and expressed commitment in promoting the future of peace, justice, security and dignity for all," Amb. Eshete emphasized.

UN Assistant-Secretary General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Doctor Ramiz Alakbarvo for his part said



that it is high time for the international community to stand with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which engaged in delivering vital support to millions of Palestinian refugees.

During the event, Dr. Ramiz reaffirmed international solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to live in peace and build a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for all.

"It is a must for us to start with a long-term humanitarian ceasefire, unrestricted access for lifesaving aid, the release of all hostages, the protection of civilians and an end to violations of international humanitarian law," Dr. Ramiz stressed.

Palestine Ambassador Fares Alqub said that it is a valuable solution to implement the two-state solution in accordance with the international consensus in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in our region.

Lauding the unwavering support provided by the international community, the ambassador said that solidarity connects people all over the world including in times of difficulties.

The UN commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine people yesterday at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa compound in the presence of resident ambassadors, UN representatives and other personalities.

Ethiopian says endeavoring to restore Axum Airport

• Residents urge concerned bodies to make restoration fast

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Preparations are underway to restore and reopen the Axum Airport, which was damage during the northern conflict, so said the Ethiopian Airlines.

Speaking to FBC, the airlines Trade Department Head Lema Yadecha, stated that the airlines has been making efforts to repair the damaged airport and put it into operation upon understanding the urgency of the problem. But due to various reasons, the government procurement system had to be evaluated and tendered and the process was forced to delay.

"The airport is badly damaged and requires basic work. For this, we have completed the selection of bidders. Before the summer, the airport will be repaired and will return to its previous service," he said.

The residents of the city, who have earned their living by making and selling various clothes and traditional ornaments were



forced to stop running business due to the damage.

Abirhaley Ferede, a resident of Axum city, said, "For Axum, tourism is the very wealth as it has possessed religious, cultural and historical elements, and the airport should be restored and made go operational soon so that tourists can come and our income will recover. Even businessmen are at stake and forced to go to Addis Ababa to work."

Gebremedihn Fitsum, Axum city Culture and Tourism Bureau Head said that although this month is a time when religious festivals

are celebrated and many participants gather from all over the world, there is no activity at the moment due to the fact that the airport is not working.

Ethiopian Airlines, the government and the Tigray region should pay attention for the airport to be repaired immediately, he added.

Ketsela Yehuala, the President of the Council of Trade Unions of Axum City, said Axum people and the business community discussed the matter a lot centering airport repair, and they submitted a request to all concerned institutions.

Ethiopia generating...

electricity apart from quenching the local demand.

The state-owned electric producer recently announced that it is endeavoring to increase the national power generation by 3,600 MW within three years.

According to Andualem, the country is undertaking some 35 existing and new projects targeting at expanding energy sources.

Among these, the southern grid expansion starts from Wolaita Sodo to Sigden and Daigra around Omo through Arba Minch. "It is strongly believed to make citizens residing in these areas and their environs electricity beneficiaries," he said.

Secondly, one of the biggest projects commenced in eastern Ethiopia which lies from Hurso to Fafem and Jigjiga through Hararis capable of generating sufficient power for the next 20 years, Andualem stated.

He further elucidated that the greater reinforcement projects also emanate from Bahir Dar through Woldiya to Kombolcha and helps consolidate the country's energy



capacity.

At present, Ethiopia generates some 5,300 MW energy, he said, adding of this aggregate power capacity, some 4,818 MW is secured from hydropower and some 404 MW from wind.

The Representative expressed that the entire consumption in the country these days doesn't surpass 3,083 MW as the

electric coverage has only accounted for only 50%.

"Under the auspicious of a three year strategy set to build, expand and distribute electric transformers at reasonable distances aiming at reaching out to the unreached with electric service including the Grand Abbay Dam, the Ethiopian Electric Power is working

in collaboration with Ethiopian Electric Utility and other development partners accordingly," Andualem added.

As the local energy consumption met has accounted for only 50%, the country has to focus on building, expanding and distributing energy so as to meet the ever increasing energy demand, he said.

As to Andualem, the very issue that makes the plan to execute the projects commenced at present different from the previous ones is that they are sufficiently studied, all what they require is fulfilled and the communities around where the projects found are well consulted.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia does have massive and untapped natural resource that helps the country produce huge electric power. For instance, as leant from evidences, 50,000 MW Ethiopia's power can be generated out of hydropower, 1.3 million MW from wind power and 10,000 MW from evaporation coming out of the earth. Besides, some 100,000 MW electricity can be obtained from solar power as 70% of the parts of the country is suitable to gain so.

Gov't allots over...

NDRMC Senior Public Relations Officer Atalele Abuhay told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the government has allotted the stated sum to bridge food and non-food shortages for people affected by drought and flood. The support also includes people displaced from their homes.

According to the crisis management system of states, the government provided urgent emergency food assistance for those in need over the last two weeks. It also delivered support to people who have been affected

by drought, unprecedented flood and IDPs.

Over the last forty five days, in two rounds, the government delivered humanitarian assistance to some 7.3 million needy people located in North Gondar and Wag Hemra zones of the Amhara State as well as three zones of the Tigray State. Some 3.6 million people received cash assistance and the remaining citizens are beneficiaries of food related items.

The officer further stated that the

government has provided 610, 000 quintals of crop, 54, 000 quintals of nutritious food and one million liters of edible oil for children and pregnant women in the second round. Some 1.5 billion Birr cash has also been distributed through the support of the World Bank Group.

"The stated support did not include citizens who were affected by the unprecedented flood in Somali and South Ethiopia states recently. The government transported 1, 821 quintals of rice and 9, 200 non-food items

(Kits) to flood victims in Somali State."

Mentioning the commission's collaboration with the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) to speedy humanitarian response, Atalele indicated non-food items have been provided to 16, 648 households who were displaced from their homes by flood in Dassanech district of South Ethiopia State.

The NDRMC would address the victims based on the level of crisis and crisis management system, he remarked.

Premier tours...

of enhancing cooperation in agriculture, mining and tourism in addition to the existing partnership in the defense sector, according to the Office of the Prime Minister.

After the meeting Abiy appreciated PM Fiala for the discussion.

He said, "Thank you Prime Minister Peter Fiala for a candid discussion today," according to Office of the Prime Minister.

"I look forward to what we can accomplish together," Abiy added.

Fiala on his part posted on X expressing that he was pleased to welcome Prime Minister Abiy to the Straka Academy while mentioning the visit came after his invitation during his recent visit to

Ethiopia.

"Two reciprocal visits in such quick succession show that we have many common topics. I believe that today's meeting will strengthen our countries' economic, defense and development cooperation," he wrote on X.

During the discussion, the two leaders also conferred on ways in which Czech companies boost engagement in Ethiopia and the potential to begin a direct flight route between Prague and Addis Ababa.

The leaders also agreed to establish a commission to outline specific cooperation projects, emphasizing the scope for growth and development in their partnership, it was learnt.

Diasporas pledge...

Ethiopian Diasporas living in different parts of the world and informed the latter about its plan to embrace them in efforts to resolve the longstanding contentious problems. "I am also ready to take my share of responsibility as a member of the diaspora."

Azeb Alfered, Who spent 38 years out of Ethiopia, also told EPA that the dialogue is an opportunity for the Diaspora community to determine the future of the country. She also urged concerted efforts of Ethiopians in the Diaspora in supporting the national efforts towards ensuring the

progress of the country.

To ensure the inclusivity of the National Dialogue, which is expected to address the age-old contentious problems, the ENDC has widely opened the door to the participation of different segments of the society including the Diaspora.

In the efforts towards the realization of its vision of becoming a middle income economy, the government is also seeking support from Ethiopians in the Diaspora, through investment, job creation and promoting innovation, among others.

Opinion

Africa should speak with one voice at Dubai COP28 Summit

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Africa is lagging behind in development when compared to other continents. Its economy is based on agriculture yet which is mainly rain fed and critically vulnerable to extreme climate condition and in time of adversity, not only the agriculture sector, but also the whole economy will be in trouble.

As the continent is less industrialized, its contribution to the global warming and climate change is negligible but it suffers a great deal from the effect of global warming induced by gas released from the economically advanced countries.

Extreme weather condition poses crop failure which leaves farmers to be dependent on foreign aid and when the situation is worse, they might face displacement. The livestock which is part of the agricultural sector also is vulnerable to the natural calamities. When drought occurs, particularly in the areas where pastoral community is settled, grazing lands will be changed in to barren land and water points also dry up. As a result, animals will meet their death in the wilderness.

Ethiopia experienced such catastrophic effect for the past successive decades and in the last two years, only in the south eastern part of the country, more than 2 million cattle lost their lives due to the drought resulted from the extreme weather condition. Rehabilitating the drought affected pastoral community cost the nation billions of Birr which again put the nation in financial stress.

Climate change also posed outbreak of new diseases which burden the health sector. According to public health professionals, three decades ago, the outbreak of malaria disease was a phenomena only in the place below 500 meter above sea level but currently, due to climate change, it has been common to experience the malaria disease in the places of 1000 meter above sea level and people are suffering all over Africa and the death rate is alarmingly increasing.

It is also witnessed that cattle disease was erupted and critically affected the animals. In the remotest areas of Africa, where there is shortfall of veterinary service, the matter has been worsened.

The expansion of desertification due to the increasing global warming also has been a worrisome phenomenon. The Shale region located in the northern and central Africa which is known by its aridity is expanding towards the south.

As a result, the farm lands are changed

in to barren lands. Farmers unable to produce sufficient crops which support their livelihood and this again coerced them to live in a vicious cycle of poverty and dependent on foreign aid.

According to the World Food Program, 40% of the Africa's food demand is covered by importation from abroad and aid and this clearly indicates that how the continent is far from food self-sufficiency. The expansion of desertification further complicated the matter and put the continent's sovereignty in to question.

Drought also critically affects water sources that mostly support the energy sector by generating electric power. Unlike other continents which can develop other energy sources such as nuclear, solar, and geothermal and wind farm, African countries are heavily dependent on hydro power energy which is very sensitive to climate change and global warming. Due to drought resulted from lack of rain, the volume of water in the rivers and streams will be reduced and the flow of water to the dams is also reduced. Consequently, the dams' capacity to generate electric power and supply to industries will be deducted which again reduces their production capacity and affect the whole economy.

To the other extreme, when heavy rain and wind occur, agriculture is affected and crops will be demolished; animals will be taken by flood; water canals will be destroyed due to over flow and in the urban centers, residential houses will be demolished and people residing in the suburb of river banks will be victimized and lose their life; bridges will be damaged which again interrupt road transportation. Hence, we can conclude that the earth has become inconvenient to humans' and animals' existence from time to time, due to climate change. Therefore, countries, especially in the developing world, should stand together and fight to mitigate global warming through voicing their plea in the climate change forum.

Countries across the world have been engaged in climate negotiation through the United Nations platform since 1972. Scientists proved that the gas emitted from the industries of the developed world since the industrial revolution in 1850 is responsible for the climate change and all countries agreed that the advanced countries should reduce their emission and through time, they should give up utilizing carbon based energy and change it in to none carbon based renewable energy.

On the other hand, the developing countries should agree to not to repeat the developed countries' past mistake. Rather,

they should pursue the development path through utilizing renewable energy. In addition, they are required to continue the adaptation mechanism to cop up the effect of climate change through implementing proper land management, afforestation, tackling soil erosion, land degradation and implementing proper waste management.

Developed countries on their part, in addition to reducing their gas emission, they pledged to support the developing countries financially to realize their endeavor to develop green economy.

Side by side with these, carbon trading has been taken as a tool to enhance the poor countries' financial status. Developing countries need to cultivate their forest lands and professionals have to calculate the amount of carbon released from the developed countries and sequestered by the forests located in developing countries to secure money from advanced countries and in such a way, developing countries will be able to mitigate climate change.

However, though the climate negotiation among countries undergone for many decades' tangible results have not been obtained. Rich countries did not fulfill their pledge to reduce their gas emission nor they provided money to developing countries to withstand the effect of climate change and they are continued to suffer the brunt of climate induced global warming.

Recently, AU Great Green Wall Initiative Director Elvis Paul Tangem said that Africa is going with one document and one vision to the COP28 to be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai. At the COP28 Summit, countries, companies, financial institutions and civil societies will come together to affirm their will to tackle the climate challenge through concerted and collaborative action.

The director told ENA that this year's COP28 summit is critical for Africa to make its voice heard with the same position. "I think this particular COP28 is going to be very critical because Africa is going with one document, one vision, and there is no longer any division between countries. Now we have the declaration, which is going to be the platform with which we are going to engage our international development partners," he said.

Tangem expressed his hope that the summit will put in place a win-win approach to adopt funding that is going to support the member states that are being badly affected by climate change. Africa has the lowest per capita fossil fuel emissions of any region globally. Yet, the continent has been facing the most severe

challenges due to the climate change.

The negative effects of climate change on the African continent have become increasingly vivid through disasters such as floods, untimely rain, and drought. Seven out of the ten most vulnerable countries by climate change are in Africa.

In an exclusive interview with local media, African Union Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment Commissioner, Josefa Sacko said that the Union is prepared to actively participate at the COP28 Summit.

It is recalled that AU member states' leaders who attended the Africa Climate Summit (ACS), which took place in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, signed the Nairobi Declaration that will serve as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP28 and beyond.

"We came out with a very bold African leaders' Nairobi Declaration, and we are already prepared to go and negotiate," the commissioner stated. She added that the AU is also in conversation with African group of negotiators to see the areas that the continent really wants to address.

"For us, it is adaptation. Adaptation is our priority, loss and damages another priority access to finance in order for us to implement our climate actions," she said. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/CAADP Program Officer-Monitoring and Evaluation, Fatmata Seiwoh stressed that the continent is still facing climate issues.

There was a COP of last year, she said, adding that "There are recommendations. I know that for us as a regional economic community, we have done some efforts in implementing some of those recommendations; but climate issues continue to be imminent in the continent."

Delegates from nearly 200 countries, leaders of businesses and financial institutions, and representatives of civil societies are expected to gather for the COP28 climate conference with the aim of fast-tracking the transition to a clean-energy future.

The COP28 is expected to stress the importance of collective action to stop climate change and the critical role of finance in the low-carbon transition. With Africa's participation, things will be changed to the better in the future.

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

Editorial

Opinion

Deepening diplomatic ties winning hearts

There is a saying that goes a genuine friend is your fulfilled wish. Also another proverb runs whosoever walks with the wise becomes wise but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

The concepts at the kernel of the aforementioned adages are applicable to humans, institutions and countries.

True, meticulously choosing a friend conducting researches and studying dispositions are recommended for optimizing returns that accrue from multifaceted clicking promising mutual growth and also for forestalling political impositions like arm twisting.

Those seeking a true relationship rooted in trust and common vision must be seen pets not pawns or pushovers. The affluent ones in the relationship must be averse to predatory sentiments.

It is in accordance with the above mentioned mentality Ethiopia today is marching on the avenue of diplomacy expanding its fan base on the sector.

The diplomatic relation of Ethiopia is leaping to a higher level from time to time. To decipher the reason behind the success story it doesn't take much effort, as the roadmap of the new foreign affairs policy set in motion from the very outset of the change derive is palpable.

This policy never frowns up on any country as an enemy. It zeros in on possibilities for reciprocating with the intent of common growth.

Those countries that understood well the friendly policy Ethiopia embraced today are solidifying their diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia that is intent to optimize the benefits to be garnered from such ventures. They are creating economic—trade, investment, tourism. Springboards with the country for a joint ascent to a better tomorrow on top of the people-to-people relationships that afford a window into one another's country. This has wide opened doors for Ethiopia to harness sound relationships that develop from the diplomatic steps to efficiently put to use potentials for economic pickups.

Its diplomatic relation with Far East countries specially with China is conspicuously turning multi-pronged. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's stay in China on 21 October 2023 tells a lot as it has a special meaning to Ethiopia. The visit is one that not only consolidates the relationship between the countries; it as well magnifies their economic cooperation. Especially Ethiopia's being a member of BRICS countries has become reason enough to render Ethio-China's relation robust.

Similarly in the course of the past five years now, the country has forged amicable diplomatic relationship with European countries. Apart from pacifying the unrest that erupted in the northern part of the country, the government is striving to put damaged infrastructural facilities back into shape. In so doing, the country has secured financial and technical support.

Owing to its geographical proximity to Europe, the country has registered commendable result exporting quality agricultural produces even when the global trade corridor was under the grip of Coronavirus.

Though Ethiopia's relationship with America was strong for long it has been disrupted for a couple of years on the wake of the unrest that rocked Tigray. Owing to this Ethiopia has been banned from benefiting from AGOA. As Ethiopia doesn't allow others to interfere in its internal affair, it has not yet changed its stance. It is to be recalled that after the Pretoria agreement more specifically on 13 December 2022 Minister of USA's Foreign Affairs Antonio Blinken had visited Ethiopia. The two countries have reached agreement to revitalize their relation. Ethiopia has also requested the continuance of its being a beneficiary of AGOA.

Of late PM Abiy has met with his Czech counterpart Petr Fiala to discuss on issues that buttress bilateral ties. The two countries have vowed to take to new heights their clicking in agriculture, mining, tourism and defense sectors. The latter's recent visit of Ethiopia is a manifestation of the vibrant relationship the two countries have.

Ethiopia's ties with countries in the Middle East are friendly ones especially with the UAE. Following the sound bond Ethiopia created with UAE, many Ethiopians are enjoying job opportunities in that country. Reports of Ministry of Labor and Skill indicate that over 120,000 Ethiopians have got job opportunities in UAE.

Ethiopia is beneficiary of the good relationship it forged with countries across the globe. The new foreign affair policy and the fertile ground it created on the sector is ascribable to the achievement. It is profitable keeping the tempo of working on common interest with all countries. This is inconsonance with the governments and peoples' interest.

Propelling cooperation with Africa for registering viable development

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Holding discussions centering a range of sectors that can drive growth and prosperity wheel well would be a viable means to successfully defeat poverty from the soil of the planet, with a peculiar focus on the lands of developing nations.

In addition to deciding new goals, the international community will need to agree on how the already set goals will be implemented and put into effect as properly and timely as possible. Development cooperation is one key tool for implementing the new adjustment frameworks and attaining various national and international ambitions.

The quality or effectiveness of co-operation is as important as the volumes of resources provided. It also needs to recognize diversity across countries, and the specificities of different types of cooperation extended by governments including through south-south and triangular collaboration.

A number of African leaders, including Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recently participated in "Compact with Africa" summit in Berlin, Germany. True, the summit is a central pillar of the G20 -Africa partnership that aims to promote private sector-led development by improving the conditions for private participation and investment.

Propelled under the German G20 Presidency in 2017, the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) has become a platform for dialogue and cooperation between reform-oriented African countries, G20 partners and beyond. Yes, the session focused on economic cooperation and enhancing private sector involvement.

The member countries of the G20 Compact are Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia and Togo.

Leaders from more than 10 African countries took part in the summit and discussed how to promote private investment in the African continent. Africa plays an important role in helping Germany better diversify its supply chains, secure skilled workers, reduce illegal migration and achieve a green transition.

It is recurrently heralded that expanding relations with Africa is part of the foreign policy that has been promoted by the German Government to strengthen the role and position of the European economic leader on the African continent.

The aforementioned summit is held annually within the framework of the G20 Compact with Africa, with the expectation of strongly attracting investors to the African market.

Meanwhile, many German companies are looking to boost their business in Africa, especially in the fields such as green hydrogen and liquefied natural gas. According to head of the German-Africa Business Association Christoph Kannegiesser, in the context of Germany seeking to reduce its dependence on Russian gas, he realizes the great potential of the energy sector in Africa.

Cognizant of the fact that diversifying trading

partners and expanding cooperation among / between countries is of paramount importance in bringing about change, many countries are now working to firmly solidify that line.

Taking the opportunity garnered out of the summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz held discussions to bolster the relationship between the two countries on new spheres of cooperation.

Ethiopia and Germany enjoy close cooperation on matters of climate change, energy, education, regional peace and security. It was also stated that the German government is providing support to strengthen the technical and vocational training sector in Ethiopia and ensure the country's effort in food security.

African leaders used the G20 Compact with Africa summit to call attention to Africa's stupendous need for more investment and for positive competition between Europe and China.

It is also attested that internal investment among African nations is quite colossal. Aiming at sparking greater private investment in Africa, the CwA initiative brings 13 African members together with representatives from the G20 major economies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

Underscoring renewed interest in Africa, many countries of the world are now willing to work with the continent. True, as international development co-operation can be a powerful tool in helping countries to realize their own development goals and ambitions, the effectiveness of development co-operation.

Thinking on effective partnerships will continue to evolve, and will be shaped by discussions in various forums— not least the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, and UN entities such as the Development Cooperation Forum.

Successful partnership models need to be replicated and scaled up in every part of the world as they help amalgamate synergy for change.

Thinking on development co-operation has evolved, and South-South and triangular co-operation, climate finance, co-operation among governments on non-aid policies, and co-operation with and among non-governmental actors such as businesses and civil society is vital. Besides, effective co-operation is about maximizing the impact of all of these instruments and inputs.

Curbing illicit financial flows by helping developing countries to strengthen their institutional, regulatory and legal arrangements and by facilitating global dialogue has to be further bolstered to make a difference.

In sum, promoting policy coherence for development, incorporating inclusive green growth into development policies as part of efforts to promote sustainable development and supporting capacity development for growth like what the European countries such as Germany are doing with Africa needs to be well acknowledged, and feasibly put into effect.

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



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Business & Economy

Multifaceted benefits of minerals development

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Amhara region is one of the regions rich in natural resources. Among these natural resources, mineral wealth that includes gold, opal (precious minerals), coal, gypsum, and limestone can be mentioned. The mineral resources are identified by research. However, data indicates that 70 percent of the mineral resources in the region have not yet been identified. Other information also points to the presence of iron ore in different areas of the region.

Tamrat Demisse, Deputy Head of the Amhara Regional Mineral Resource Development Office, stated that there are many mineral resources. So far, about 40 minerals have been identified by research, and among them; opal, gold, gypsum, coal, betonics, humus, limestone and similar types of minerals are available. Among the minerals that have been identified this year, there is a mineral named Silicasant.

According to Tamrat, licenses are being given to investors who develop the minerals. It is planned to give licenses to seven investors who will develop silicon mineral, and so far, the license has been given to one investor.

Opal mining is mostly found in South Wollo and North Wollo zones. In the eight districts of the two zones, 69 enterprises with a workforce of 7,430 are organized and are producing and marketing opal. In the 2023/24 fiscal year, it is planned to earn 7,200,000 US dollars by exporting 18,156 kilograms of opal products. Exporting 10,959 kilograms of opal products in the quarter; Tamrat announced that it was able to earn 324,428 USD. He pointed out that this includes both value-added and non-value-added opal production.

In the research conducted in the region, it has been confirmed that there are gold deposits in different places in Gondar, West Gojjam and Awi Zone. 67 enterprises with 1,156 employees have been organized and put into work to produce gold in these places.

It is planned to earn 4,628,950 USD by sending 120 kilograms of gold to the foreign market in the 2023/24 fiscal year. According to the deputy head of the office, in the region, gold is produced in traditional and modern ways by small producers and companies. It is planned to produce 20 kg of gold by small producers and 100 kilograms of gold at the company level in the current fiscal year. Gold producers have been given sites and locations in various areas and they have been put to work.

Because most manufacturers are licensed for exploration, they will be issued a production license as soon as the exploration process is entirely done. The exploration license is valid for six months. After six months, production license will be issued to the investors. The deputy head of the office mentioned that after the manufacturers are given a license for exploration, they will get a production license and start working so that licenses have been given to five producers in the current fiscal year.

Amber is one of the other mineral products that are planned to be exported to the



Laterite Iron Ore

Improved technologies are needed to extract and use the mineral resources appropriately. Lack of these technologies is a big obstacle in the sector

foreign market. It is planned to earn 10,120 USD by exporting 250 kg of amber in the current financial year. Another mineral product planned for export is gypsum and it is planned to earn 681,819 USD by sending 7,500 kilograms of gypsum to the foreign market.

As the Deputy Head of the Office, a total of 1,336 enterprises with 8,586 employees have been organized and started working on gold and opal mining. In addition, he mentioned that there are producers who add value or process precious metals and supply them to the local and foreign markets.

It is planned to grant licenses to 15 producers of precious metals in the current fiscal year. The licenses have been given to four producers so far, and it is planned to grant licenses to 30 producers in the fiscal year. License has also been given to three manufacturers. As of him, it was planned to create job opportunities for 45,143 citizens in the mining sector in the 2023/24 fiscal year, and it was possible to create job opportunities for 4,149 citizens in the first quarter.

The deputy head mentioned that there are various problems encountered the sector and the first problem that arises in the mining sector is that the producers produce the mineral (opal and other minerals) in a traditional way. Improved technologies are needed to extract and use the mineral resources appropriately. Lack of these technologies is a big obstacle in the sector.

As he announced, the second problem is that the mineral product for exportation is raw opal (no value added, no processed). If value is added to this product in the country, it can create more job opportunities. Opal being brought to the foreign market without adding value is a big problem for producers engaged in the sector. As a result, their production is small and they face a problem on processing the ore.

He said that the mineral that is being sent without value addition is creating job opportunities for foreigners. Different technologies are needed to provide value added product that can satisfy the demand of the foreign market.

The third challenge he mentioned is the issue of market linkage. There is no market linkage that is so short that the producer can

immediately sell the product and improve his income and livelihood. As a result, the manufacturer tries to sell the product in different places. Another problem is that there is no credit system for young people engaged in this sector to buy more technology. The inability of credit institutions to provide loans is mentioned as a problem.

He further stated that the illegal activity that is happening in the mining sector is another challenge. It is known that there is illegal mining in various places. Traders who move minerals from one place to another without a legal permit have been increased. These bodies are taking advantage of the youth and the investors instead of following the legal line and there are entities who want to take minerals illegally in a shortcut way.

Tamrat said that work is being done to solve the problems that arise in the mining sector in the fiscal year. For this purpose, the construction of a mining shopping center at Delanta in South Wollo Zone is done. As to him, they are working together with the finance office to establish the center and start work. This shopping center can shorten the long process of marketing. It expands the market connection and opens up a wide opportunity for buyers to come and buy in the market center.

He said that an institution capable of managing the mining sector has been established near where the minerals are located. The regional mineral resources development office did not have any branches in the zone or district until recently. At present, he stated that the office has been set up at the zone level and at the district level.

For example, the shopping center built in Delanta is responsible for the mineral wealth of the district. By organizing the center with different materials, efforts are being made to put various technologies into operation to make opal last longer by using technologies. In this regard, the office in Delanta is being established, organized, strengthened and supported by technology.

“We have prepared guidelines to put the shopping center into operation,” the deputy head of the office said. Opal is located in North Wollo and South Wollo areas, so that work is being done to complete the necessary materials for the shopping center in South Wollo Delanta. It is planned to build a shopping center in North Wollo in the current fiscal year, he added.

Tamrat further stated that guidelines are being prepared to prevent minerals’ development related illicit deeds in the region. The task force is working to prevent illegal mining. A guide has been prepared to control illegal minerals in every kebele and district by coordinating with various partners (experts and leaders related to police, justice, peace and security) by establishing checkpoints and conducting inspections.

On the other hand, various awareness programs will be conducted to prevent illegality. An awareness raising campaign is set to be held in the Amhara region in the second quarter of the current fiscal year to explain the negative impact of illegal trafficking in minerals.

Art & Culture

Why Africa's artistic renaissance is becoming a vibrant reality

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The term Renaissance, meaning rebirth, is a French word that designates a period in European history when science, arts and philosophy assumed the upper hand in reenergizing most European societies and the genius of Europe was unbounded from the fetters of centuries-old feudalism and the dawn of a new age announced itself after centuries of darkness. The renaissance period of European history is marked, among other things by new developments in arts and literature.

Another definition maintains that, "The renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic "rebirth" following the middle ages. Generally described as taking place from the 14th to the 17th century, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art."

The term renaissance is nowadays used to designate any kind of radical change in contemporary human history. Since the dawn of the 21st century, the term is increasingly being used to characterize a sweeping changes or overhaul, often based on past glories and achievements, not only in arts and literature but also in the political, social and economic lives of nations. We have thus the term African renaissance which is increasingly used to designate Africa's renewal through the rediscovery of its past glories and achievements under the new conditions.

African renaissance is a concept that has found currency at the dawn of this century and after Nelson Mandela was released from prison and South Africa became a rainbow nation. Who coined the term 'African renaissance'? The words first appeared in the tumultuous political and economic revival of the continent when many African countries displayed an unprecedented interest in their continent's awakening from colonial and post-colonial stagnation, when hope in a better future was reborn and flickers of light appeared in the otherwise dark horizon. The trouble is that the concept of African renaissance was not as vigorously pursued as it was first articulated. It was relatively more attractive during the last years of the 1990s and the early 2000's and then it lost momentum as the process was more complex than it was first assumed. Most of all, Africa's economic rebirth required the close cooperation of the developed West because needs massive capital and technology infusion in order to make its vision a vibrant reality. Unless there is a paradigm change in relations between Africa and the West, from neocolonial to equal opportunity ones, there is obviously little prospect for success. Africa may depend on itself politically to realize the vision of economic renewal. However, economic renewal is bound to be more problematic for the reason mentioned

The African renaissance should not be confined to politics and the economy alone and is expected to include the arts because there is a dynamic relationship and positive interaction between politics, economics and the arts

earlier.

Whether the opportunities or promises are fulfilled now after more than two or three decades is therefore a debatable issue. The idea of African renaissance is not however dead or forgotten. It is sometimes evoked in another slogan that says, "Africa rising", or Africa fighting for unity and economic freedom which are not yet achieved. So, African renaissance is much more dynamic and assuming global dimensions in the arts and literature. We may perhaps call this ongoing process, Africa's artistic and cultural renaissance which is more realistic and has even started to deliver as recent documents prove.

The ongoing renaissance in African arts and culture is bound to spill over the economy and even politics as new generations of African arts are likely to use their popularity and the incomes they earn from their works to help address the issues of poverty and underdevelopment in their native Africa. Developments in African arts and culture have thus a spillover effect on other sectors of the African economies besides the cultural industry which in itself is a very lucrative sector.

It is important to note that African art has long started to assume global dimensions particularly since the advent of the new inventions in global information and communication revolution, a process which had barely started a few decades back. African art and culture have immensely benefitted from the ongoing technological advances. In a sense, the revolution in technology has facilitated the birth of African revolution in art and culture. The revolution in African art is tightly linked to black art in the general and the first black American who is considered the father of the new art is a man from Nashville Tennessee whose name is Aaron Douglas who was, "the most prominent artist-illustrator of the Harlem Renaissance, a movement of the 1920s during which African Americans developed a unique artistic style."

Modern African art is often considered revolutionary art not only because it aspires for an African renaissance art but also because, "it is a form of modern art through which artists express their personal convictions about certain issues in society. The pieces of art might also depict political themes. A true revolutionary artist does not care whether the needs of speculative dealers are met or not."

With the above quotation in mind, modern African writers are out to conquer the world as their achievements testify. Modern African are started to get increased recognition in the early years of the 1980s. "The long-deserved appreciation for African art and artists in the West increased rapidly in the 1989 exhibition, Les Magiciens de la Terre (the magicians of the Earth) at Centre Pompidou in Paris. Africa has witnessed a period of creative flourishing, as more and more international galleries open their door to African exhibitions worldwide."

The New York Times newspaper in the US recently published an interesting article on 12 African artists that have claimed the global limelight in recent years. The article is justifiably entitled, "Meet the African Artists Driving a Cultural Renaissance around the World". The subtitle says that "As digital connections bring the African Diaspora together, these 12 creative artists are at the center of the global shift".

When we talk about African art renaissance these days, we are not talking only about music or literature. Art in its broader sense includes filmmaking, writing of course, and also culinary art or the art of cooking. African art also includes fashion designing, architecture and visual art. According to a recent survey or project, the children of African art renaissance who are currently impacting the global art industry are, among others, "Twelve leading creators from Africa and the Diaspora, as far afield as Asia, Europe and the United States. They include a two-time Oscar winner and a first-time filmmaker, a Michelin star chef and a bestselling author, a fashion designer and an architect, a visual artist and a pop star."

The survey also mentioned the names of the most popular and young African artists who are emerging as new trend-setters in the art industry. According to the survey, "Today, for the booming young population of Africa and its Diaspora, the relationship is more direct. There is reciprocity of inspiration, fueled by a multitude of creative efforts and propelled by social media platforms like TikTok." The survey sites plenty of examples like Black panther, a movie inspired and made by upcoming young African filmmakers, like Kindle Wiley, and Omar Victor Diop, Nigeria's hilarious pulp movies which are binged in homes across Europe and the Caribbean. Add to this the Afro-Pop songs of Kenya's Sauti Sol and the Afrobeats sounds of Tems, Burma boys and Mr. Fazi."

Where are young Ethiopian artists in all this? For now they are nowhere to be seen but they are also bound to emerge from anonymity sooner or later. The problem with Ethiopian artists are that they are more introvert or inward looking than extrovert. They are not bold or ambitious enough to storm the global art scene and prefer to stay in the domestic comfort zone. This is however a recipe for disaster because these days it pays to be extrovert and aggressive in the positive sense because the global art scene is overcrowded with numerous upcoming talents who are jostling for recognition. Ethiopian artists should rather make notable contributions to the African art renaissance that is slowly but surely conquering the continent as well as the world. The African renaissance should not be confined to politics and the economy alone and is expected to include the arts because there is a dynamic relationship and positive interaction between politics, economics and the arts.

Indepth



U.S.-China climate agreement: *A Leap forward in global climate cooperation*

The recent U.S.-China summit on November 15 in San Francisco, against a backdrop of low expectations, surprisingly made significant strides with the unveiling of the “Sunnylands Statement on Enhancing Cooperation to Address the Climate Crisis.” This agreement, the result of two years of negotiations between climate envoys John Kerry and Xie Zhenhua, represents a considerable advancement following the 2021 joint declaration at the Glasgow Climate Summit.

The declaration has a dual focus: it establishes a working group to address critical climate issues through U.S.-China collaboration, and it sets forth commitments to amplify international efforts, particularly under the Paris Agreement. Importantly, this collaborative endeavor aims to reactivate a working group that was stalled in 2021 due to geopolitical disputes, demonstrating a renewed commitment to overcoming hurdles in climate cooperation.

The statement covers practical areas of collaboration, ranging from methane reduction to large-scale carbon capture projects. It also signals a revival of the U.S.-China Energy Efficiency Forum and endorses subnational cooperation, spotlighting successful initiatives between California and China.

A key aspect of the Sunnylands Statement is its reference to the upcoming 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, with a promise of a jointly hosted summit on methane and non-CO2 gases. It introduces a commitment to economy-wide targets on all greenhouse gases by 2035, a significant step for China, and addresses the contentious issue of climate finance, a topic that has ignited

heated debates in previous COP meetings. It was welcomed by Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, COP28 President-Designate, who noted that the “Global Stocktake evidences that there is much to be done to get back on track and keep 1.5C within reach. It will require all parties to unite, act, and deliver a high-ambition GST decision at COP28.”

John Englander, a US expert in climate change, global warming, and rising sea levels, told IPS that China’s new commitment to GHG reduction is significant. It holds importance not only in potentially reducing their emissions but also in encouraging others to do the same. However, he emphasized that this will not “solve climate change.”

Englander added that despite all our efforts, we are losing ground each year. “While being hopeful and innovative is great, we also need to be realistic. With the excess heat already stored in the ocean, Greenland and Antarctica will almost certainly continue their quickening melt rate, raising global sea levels.”

He stressed the need for planning and implementing more adaptation, even with all the glimmers of hope.

He stated that it was a positive step. If all the CO2 emitters adopted tighter standards, it would help slow the rate of warming a little bit. It’s a good start, but even with all the current efforts, we are losing ground. Sea levels will rise for centuries in any scenario. We need to slow the warming as much as possible, but we also need to realize that sea level is going to rise significantly.

As the world prepares for COP28 in Dubai, António Guterres, during a visit late last week to Antarctica, reflected on the impact of global warming on the region and

appealed to world leaders to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

He also urged them to protect people from climate chaos and end the fossil fuel age, saying, “We must not let all hopes for a sustainable planet melt away.”

Khaled Suliman, an expert in climate change from Iraq, has pointed out that China, during the inception of the Industrial Revolution, was not among the industrial nations primarily accountable for carbon emissions. As such, China leans on its historical lack of responsibility and argues that it shouldn’t be obligated to undertake climate mitigation efforts like other countries, such as Britain, which is recognized as the pioneer of the Industrial Revolution, the technological revolution, and carbon emissions.

Suliman emphasized that China’s heavy reliance on oil is a crucial factor. Any disruption in its oil dependence could lead to an economic downturn. Currently, China is in urgent need to persist with its economic development to ascend as the world’s leading industrial nation.

From the onset of the Industrial Revolution until now, British emissions have totaled 78 billion tons. In contrast, Chinese emissions from 2010 to 2021 have surpassed 150 billion tons of carbon, according to Suliman. This situation poses a significant challenge. Although it’s generally accepted that China isn’t historically responsible, the vast amount of carbon emissions it has produced in recent years is difficult to manage. This predicament could potentially hinder negotiations between China and major industrial nations, particularly the United States, which is the second-largest carbon emitter after China.

Any commitment from China to reduce

carbon emissions inherently implies a decrease in the consumption of fossil fuels. Consequently, this commitment is likely to impact other countries that export oil to China. Moreover, it could also affect Chinese companies operating in the oil sector in Africa and the Middle East, especially as these companies are expanding globally.

“This agreement could therefore influence the oil and gas industries in these countries and their respective companies. Additionally, it could also impact the Chinese industry known for supplying globally competitive goods due to their low prices, a feat achieved largely due to fossil fuels and oil and gas,” Suliman told IPS.

Given the world’s reliance on fossil fuels, any agreement between developed and emerging industrial countries, as Suliman stated, could initially have a negative impact on the world economy.

“These agreements, however, are expected to produce positive outcomes and significant benefits in the future, particularly if there is a shift toward renewable energy and reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Such measures would benefit biodiversity, natural ecosystem conservation, smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions. All of these factors are expected to benefit economies, communities, food sources, and global food security,” Suliman said.

He warned that if the dependence on fossil fuels continues, by the end of the century, we could see a temperature rise exceeding 4 degrees Celsius compared to pre-Industrial Revolution levels. Consequently, many regions worldwide, including the Middle East, could become uninhabitable.

Source: Inter Press service

Law & Politics

Diplomacy at play!

BY EYUEL KIFLU

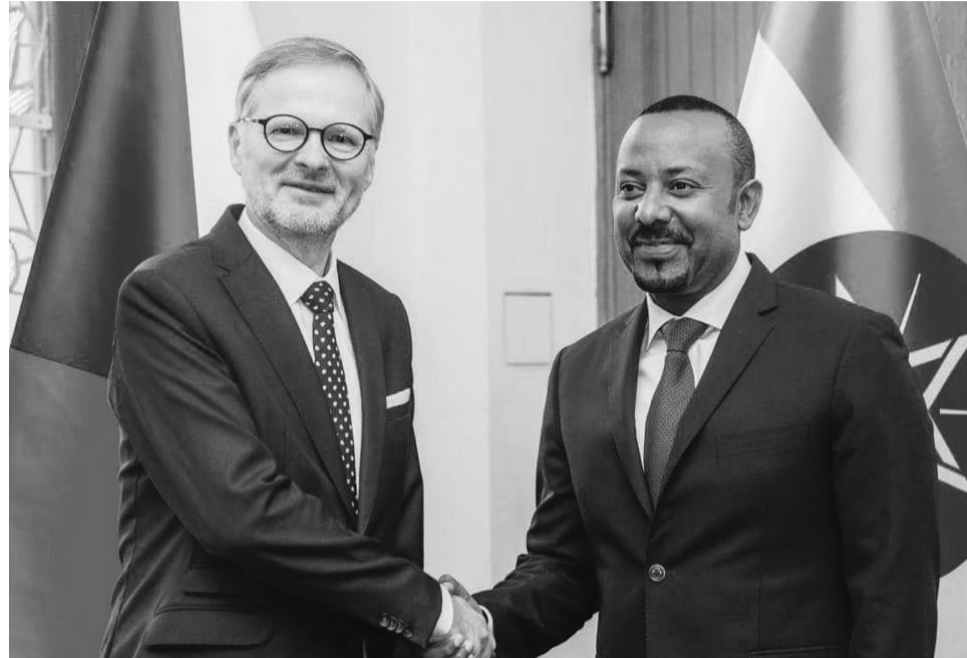
Ethiopia was going through unwarranted pressure in the last few years that was punctuated by diplomatic rows with some entities or nations in the Western hemisphere of the globe. Some countries or blocs had been painting scathing portraits of the country's internal situation. And some entities even went so far as to issue defamatory statements directed at the Ethiopian government, though the latter largely saw them as acts of external intervention and violations of the country's sovereignty.

With some nations or blocs putting in place sanctions, the country's diplomatic clout has partly been damaged and is also portrayed in the global media as a place of conflict and human suffering. But many argue that though the internal conflict in the country brought unimaginable human suffering and property loss, the diplomatic pressure from some nations or entities has been a far cry, and they try to see it from the vested interests of the countries. From the United Nations Security Council to the European Union, Ethiopia has been high on the agenda of the international community, mainly for wrong characterization.

The string of statements obviously damaged the global reputation, though the country was able to fend off the pressures and never succumb to external interests. Amidst the pressure, the country has been trying to strike a balance in its diplomatic engagement with all actors in the world. However, there has been a U-turn following the Pretoria agreement, in which Ethiopia peacefully ended the two-year bloodshed in the northern part of the country. The AU-brokered and self-initiated peace deal has been imperative in improving the country's diplomatic relations with the international community. Since the guns were silenced in the country, diplomatic confrontations have been replaced with cooperation.

The country's name had been included in major international or partnership gatherings. Suffice to mention the US Africa Summit and Russia Africa Forum, which are solid indicators that Africa's capital is back on the world stage after years marred by rifts. The old good days of the country's diplomatic relations seem to be in play. This year, the country was picked as a new member of the BRICS alliance together with Egypt, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition, with sanctions suspended, the country has been a stop for various leaders around the world. Prime ministers, foreign secretaries, and heads of state have been including in their itinerary a testimony to the country's central role in regional, continental, and global relations. In fact, Addis Ababa has been playing a leading role in global affairs like climate change, Africa's representation in international



institutions, and peace and security. This and the country's regional role have made it the major destination of foreign leaders, with many countries showing a desire to work with the seat of the Africa Union.

Equally, Addis Ababa has been keen to foster strong relations with the international community across the aisle. In what could be said as a diplomatic success, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has paid visits to countries in the west and east as well, either on invitation or initiation. And a few weeks ago, Abiy stopped in Riyadh, where he took part in the Saudi-Africa Summit while also holding sideline talks with African and other leaders, and this week he arrived in Europe for an official state visit.

He received a warm welcome in Austria, a landlocked country in central Europe like Ethiopia. The diplomatic tour signified the improved engagement of the country with the outside world. In Vienna, the Premier and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer discussed issues that could further strengthen Ethio-Austria relations, according to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Office Press Secretary Billene Seyoum said the premier and the Chancellor had a discussion Monday on the sidelines of the 20th UNIDO General Conference.

PM Abiy and Chancellor Nehammer exchanged views on ways of strengthening Ethio-Austria ties and development cooperation, among others. The experience the premier shared at the UNIDO conference has enabled Ethiopia to be seen as a symbol of reform, Billene said.

During the discussion, the two leaders also raised issues that could further strengthen the relationship between Ethiopia and Austria. Moreover, they have agreed to focus on new areas of cooperation, the press secretary stated.

Government Communication Service Minister Legesse Tulu, on his part, said that Ethiopia was recognized for its efforts in ensuring food security at the UNIDO General Conference. Prime Minister Abiy presented Ethiopia's experience as a special

guest at the conference.

One of the challenges facing developing countries is the problem of food security, the minister said, adding that a lack of funds for their efforts in improving infrastructure provision and the lives of citizens is another.

He stated that countries have been making many policy reforms to solve these problems, and the conference focused on issues that help developing countries overcome these problems. As Ethiopia is a spearheading country in this regard, the Prime Minister presented Ethiopia's experience to the conference, the minister noted.

Ethiopia, during the last five years, has carried out various activities to improve alternative energy supply based on green development and ensure food security. As a result, Legesse pointed out that the country received recognition from the conference for its efforts in ensuring agriculture-centered integrated industry.

Since Ethiopia has a different experience from developing countries, especially in exporting wheat beyond ensuring food security, the premier shared this experience with the world community as well as developing countries, he added.

The Prime Minister has called on rich countries to strengthen their assistance and speed up the development journey that Ethiopia has started, an Ethiopian news agency reported.

Moreover, State Minister of Government Communication Service Selamawit Kassa recently announced in her video message that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is embarking on a productive working visit to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. The purpose of the visit is to further enhance the longstanding relations between the two countries.

She highlighted the recent visit of Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Fiala to Ethiopia a few weeks ago, during which discussions were held on various areas of mutual interest, including defense, health, culture, and tourism. The prime minister

expressed his pleasure in the growing partnership between the two nations.

During Prime Minister Abiy's current visit, his Czech counterpart acknowledged Ethiopia as one of their key international partners, among six countries. This recognition sets the stage for collaboration between the two nations in the areas of tourism, heritage protection, and research, she added.

Selamawit also revealed that Prime Minister Abiy visited the renowned national museum in Prague, which boasts a rich history. Impressed by the preservation of Czech culture and history for future generations, Abiy expressed his desire for Ethiopia to learn from this experience and create a national narrative that fosters unity. He extended an invitation to Czech experts to share their knowledge and assist in establishing a national museum in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abiy engaged in bilateral talks with his Czech counterpart, focusing on strengthening relations between their respective countries. Emphasizing the historical ties between the two nations, the leaders underscored the importance of replicating this cooperation in other sectors. Notably, they discussed the significant role of governmental relations in enhancing people-to-people connections, particularly within the tourism sector. In an effort to promote Ethiopian culture, Prime Minister Abiy proposed hosting an exhibition at the Prague National Museum, which received a positive response from Czech authorities, she elucidated.

Selamawit also highlighted discussions aimed at boosting trade relations between the two countries. Specifically, they explored the possibility of establishing direct flights, including cargo services, by Ethiopian Airlines into Prague. The defense sector, particularly air force training and capacity building, was also a focal point of their talks, as both nations acknowledged their strong ties and expressed the desire to further strengthen this cooperation.

She added that to facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached at the leadership level, the two countries agreed to establish a joint economic cooperation commission.

The Prime Minister's visit to the countries is a vivid sign that the country is fully back on the world stage and that its diplomatic ties with the global community have shown a positive change. However, the impact of the last three years still drags on. With AGOA in place, Ethiopia should do more to engage with the external world in order to solicit the required finance and support to reel from the impact of the conflict. In this case, cooperation is vital to the diplomatic relations between countries. Yet, cooperation should not be equated with intervention. As witnessed in many instances, there is room for countries to cooperate by involving themselves in one another's internal affairs.

Women in Focus

Finding strength in adversity: The inspiring journey of Frehiwot Tamiru

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Life is full of uncertainties, and despite our best plans and preparations, we often face unexpected challenges and circumstances. In the face of adversity, some people find solace in their beliefs and draw strength from them. One individual who exemplifies this resilience is Frehiwot Tamiru, whose inspiring story is shared in this article.

Frehiwot is a hardworking woman with ambitious plans, persistent in her goals, and highly regarded in her professional field. Born in Jimma town, she attended primary school there before her family relocated to Gimbi in west Wollega. She completed the rest of her primary education in Gimbi and went on to complete high school in Addis Ababa. She then pursued a degree in Computer Science.

At a young age, Frehiwot discovered her passion for journalism and dedicated years of hard work to fulfill her aspirations. Alongside her journalism career, she also ventured into the arts, honing her skills in drama, commercials, stage performances, and modeling. She underwent various short training courses related to her profession, constantly seeking to improve her skills in Adama town.

While living in Adama, Frehiwot actively participated in a beauty pageant called 'Miss Bright Millennium' and emerged as the winner. As the winner, she dedicated five years to voluntary work, fulfilling her childhood dream of becoming a journalist by working as an Anchorwoman for OBN-Oromia Broadcasting Network.

Frehiwot acknowledges that journalism, despite appearing easy from a distance, comes with its fair share of challenges. She describes it as a journey of losses and gains but finds fulfillment in the results of her hard work. For her, journalism is not just about sharing cultural and national issues; it is a continuous learning process. That is why she kept on updating herself and pursues her dream to attain her goals and expand the network with different individuals who appreciate and support her enthusiasm for journalism as well as art. It was at this time life took an unexpected turn for Frehiwot when she experienced a life-altering car accident while traveling from Adama to Addis Ababa. Among the passengers, she suffered the most severe injuries and tragically lost her right leg as a result. The accident was a turning point in her life, and she vividly remembers the impact it had on her.

Following the accident, Frehiwot underwent extensive treatments at various places, but eventually, she made the difficult decision to have her leg amputated. Her choice was influenced by witnessing others who refused amputation and suffered serious illnesses. She also drew inspiration from disabled individuals who achieved great things for their country. Frehiwot was determined that the accident would not hinder her progress and she remained committed to pursuing her



Frehiwot's unwavering faith has provided her with a source of strength throughout her journey

dreams.

Despite the challenges she faced, Frehiwot's story is a testament to resilience and determination. She continues to inspire others through her work in journalism and her ability to overcome adversity.

Frehiwot's unwavering faith in God has provided her with a source of strength throughout her journey. She firmly believes that God has a purpose for everything that happens in her life and expresses gratitude for the strength she has gained from her faith.

As a married woman and a mother of two, Frehiwot is aware of the challenges she faces in raising her children without a mother. However, she finds comfort in the fact that God has provided her with something that can compensate for her lost leg, enabling her to continue caring for her family.

During her restless pursuit of work and in the face of difficulties, Frehiwot's family and friends were at a loss for words to comfort her. Nevertheless, she finds solace in her belief that God intended to give her one leg, even after losing both. This unwavering belief gives her the strength to persevere. Frehiwot has become an inspiration to others

through her resilience and determination. Recently, she participated in the 'Focus on Ability' international short film festival held in Australia. Her two-minute and 40-second video about her life won a prize of 5,000 USD. In addition, she has been offered five free online educational opportunities, and she will receive her award through the organization's representatives in Ethiopia.

Her participation in the competition came about last year when a friend shared her story and invited her as a guest. During the forum, she had the opportunity to meet the organizers, who informed her about the international competition opportunities. The festival aimed to showcase the abilities of people with disabilities in various fields.

Frehiwot's video stood out among 134 films from around the world, making it into the top five after a week of online voting. The evaluation criteria for the film included not only online votes but also factors such as recording, editing, and other aspects. Her success in the competition is a testament to her talent and the impact of her story.

Frehiwot's success in the international short film festival is attributed to the support

and votes of the Ethiopian people both at home and abroad. She proudly mentions that this victory not only represents her achievement for this year but also marks the highest number of votes the organization has received since the inception of the event.

Currently, Frehiwot is involved in various professional endeavors. She collaborates with her former colleagues in a multimedia company called Miiloo, where they organize promotional activities, festival programs, documentaries, forums, and other initiatives in Oromo and Amharic languages.

In addition to her work with Miiloo, Frehiwot is engaged with an NGO where she conducts awareness-raising trainings. Initially, there was skepticism from her colleagues when she started this job in 2018, but she persevered and proved that pursuing personal endeavors with experience and skills is more rewarding than simply relying on a monthly salary.

While the physical challenges have not been the most difficult part for her since starting work, Frehiwot acknowledges the emotional difficulties of being away from her family for extended periods. She carries the concerns of her children in her heart. However, she is motivated by her purpose and appreciates the tremendous support of her husband, who takes care of their children like a mother and father when she is away.

Looking to the future, Frehiwot plans to continue working diligently to establish support facilities for children with various injuries, similar to the ones recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). Her goal is to provide these children with opportunities they may have lost and raise awareness about their unique needs.

Furthermore, Frehiwot is dedicated to spreading awareness about the benefits of using artificial body support, as she has personally witnessed how it can alleviate problems and improve lives. She emphasizes her commitment to conducting extensive awareness trainings and sharing her life experiences with young people. Through sharing her story, Frehiwot aims to inspire and motivate others to overcome obstacles and pursue their goals.

Despite the challenges and distractions that young people may face, Frehiwot encourages them to work hard and never give up. She advises them to be discerning in their use of social media, taking only what is useful and beneficial for themselves and the community. Frehiwot believes that laying a strong foundation for the future begins at a young age and urges young people to make the most of their time.

Frehiwot's experiences serve as a powerful reminder that we should learn from her example and not make excuses for not succeeding. Instead, we should learn to break through any situation and strive for success, no matter the circumstances. Her story is a testament to the power of determination and resilience, and she continues to inspire others with her unwavering spirit.

Society

Health insurance expansion improving public health

BY TEWODROS KASSA

The expansion of health insurance in Ethiopia has been a topic of debate, with proponents arguing that it can improve public health outcomes. By providing access to affordable healthcare services, health insurance expansion can ensure that individuals receive preventative care, timely treatments, and necessary medications.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report, between 2015 and 2020, almost 7 million households, equating to 32 million people, enrolled in the Ethiopian government's Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme. Out of these households, 5.5 million were members who paid the yearly premium, while 1.5 million households were sponsored by the government. During this period, the number of new consultations in all health facilities by CBHI beneficiaries increased by over 200%.

As of 2020, there are 1,920 health centers and 245 hospitals nationwide that provide health services to CBHI beneficiaries through contractual agreements. Additionally, approximately 15 percent of these health facilities have established contracts with third-party providers such as the Red Cross, Kenema Pharmaceutical Enterprise, and other private and public pharmacies to address gaps in the availability of essential medicines.

In recent years, Community Based Health Insurance has gained momentum and has been introduced even in remote rural areas of Ethiopia. The community has also become more aware of the importance of being a member of CBHI services.

The Ministry of Health in Ethiopia has stated that it is working closely with the Ethiopian Health Insurance Service (EHIS) to provide quality health services to all citizens and expand accessibility. The ministry and EHIS conducted an evaluation of the past fiscal year's work performance and the current fiscal year's plan under the theme "Health Insurance Membership for Common Prosperity."

During this evaluation, the Service Director General, Tesfaye Worku, mentioned that the EHIS has provided health access to over 54 million citizens in approximately 1,006 woredas (districts) across the country. Out of this total, around 10 million citizens are unable to pay for the service, and the government covers their fees. The Health Insurance Service was initiated in 2011 in four selected states and 13 districts, accommodating 125,142 household members.

As to him, the service has been providing



Transferring the life of the society through CBHI



Photo: WHO Regional Office for Africa

inclusive health service, attempting to produce healthy and productive citizens, ensuring the benefit of women and children as well as reaching out to the unreached are the priority areas leading to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as far as health concerns are concerned. He added that the service endeavors to provide health insurance service in the remaining districts that have not benefited out of the scheme for various reasons. Ethiopia collects 4.8 billion Birr from health insurance a year.

Health State Minister, Dereje Duguma (MD), on his part said that the Ministry has been working in close collaboration with the Ethiopian Health Insurance Service aiming at providing all citizens with quality health accessibility. In this regard, the government attaches due emphasis to quality health and it is a commendable step to add value to the effort geared towards ensuring the holistic health sector change.

Dereje further stated that Ethiopia is striving to realize the 2030 SDGs in the health sector. However, health service accessibility, quality, and sustainable finance should

take a lion's share so as to succeed 2030 SDGs. Particularly, improving the local financial system using own resource would play a vital role in reducing the challenge of financial risk, which is a major step for providing quality health for all.

He further underlined that conducting national campaign, informing the political leaders about the issue, involving all stakeholders, addressing all districts especially those which are seriously exposed to conflict and drought would help come up with outcomes for realizing the SDGs in the health sector.

Moreover, one of the key ways in which health insurance expansion can improve public health is by increasing access to preventative care. This includes regular check-ups, screenings, and vaccinations. With insurance coverage, individuals are more likely to seek preventive services, helping to detect and address health issues in their early stages. By identifying and treating conditions earlier, the overall health of the population can significantly improve.

Accordingly, health insurance expansion ensures that individuals have timely access to essential treatments. Without coverage, many individuals delay seeking medical care due to financial constraints. This delay can lead to worsening health conditions and increased healthcare costs in the long run. With expanded insurance coverage, individuals can receive necessary treatments without substantial financial burdens, thus avoiding further health complications.

Expanding health insurance coverage to a larger population comes with financial implications. Governments and healthcare systems need to allocate sufficient resources to support the increased demand for healthcare services. By prioritizing the expansion of insurance coverage, it is possible to take significant strides towards improving public health and creating a healthier society for all.

Expanding insurance coverage also necessitates having an adequate network of healthcare providers who accept the newly insured patients. Ensuring that there are enough primary care physicians, specialists, and hospitals willing to accept the expanded insured population are essential for people to access the care they need in a timely manner, the experts stressed.

The Ethiopian government has been actively involved in supporting CBHI, both through sponsoring households and covering fees for those unable to pay. This commitment demonstrates the government's dedication to ensuring the health and well-being of its citizens. Overall, the Community-Based Health Insurance service in Ethiopia has made significant progress in expanding access to healthcare and improving health outcomes for millions of people. By providing affordable coverage, increasing healthcare facilities, and addressing medication gaps, CBHI has played a crucial role in promoting the health and well-being of the community.