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Czech Premier visiting Ethiopia

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN
ADDIS ABABA – The Czech Republic’s Prime Minister Petr Fiala arrived yesterday

in Addis Ababa, part of his weeklong trip to Africa, which also includes Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire.

Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, the Czech delegation received a warm welcome by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

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USAID launches 90 mln USD new WASH projects

• *Expected to benefit over 1.2 mln people*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has officially launched 90-million USD worth Urban and Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects.

A five year, Urban WASH and Climate Resilient WASH projects launched by Water and Energy State Minister Ambassador

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EHRC anticipates credible Nat’l Dialogue, TJ implementations



BY ASHENAFIANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The National Dialogue and the Transitional Justice (TJ) processes are important vehicles for ending violent conflict and ensuring human rights, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said.

Speaking at the national conference yesterday, EHRC Chief Commissioner Daniel Bekele (PhD) noted that complementing the processes of the

National Dialogue and TJ are vital vehicles for ending the seemingly endless cycle of violence and ensuring non-recurrence of violations. The support also builds sustainable peace along with socio-economic development for Ethiopia.

The Commissioner further stated that the pledges made by various state institutions, local and regional authorities, regional organizations, civil

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Ethiopia’s FTZ generates five mln. USD in three months

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

DIRE DAWA - Free Trade Zone (FTZ) has enabled the country to generate five million USD in the first quarter of this fiscal year, the General Manger disclosed.

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The new generation of African artists should shine on the global stage

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The significance of GERD beyond Ethiopian borders

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Red sea a source of cooperation than confrontation

- Assistance Professor Ahmed Zekaria

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News

Ministry lauds ASFW platform advantages

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Industry stated that not only does ASFW platform showcase Ethiopia's potentials but it also fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing among industry leaders.

The 9th African Sourcing and Fashion week 2023 was officially opened yesterday under the theme :“Accelerating the Ethiopian Textile and Leather Industry through Africa’s biggest exhibition.”

It will last from 3rd to 6th November 2023 in Addis Ababa. Over 6,000 trade buyers, new investors and participants are expected to visit Ethiopia from over 30 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and USA.

Opening the 9th African Sourcing and Fashion Week 2023 (ASFW), platform, Industry Minister Melaku Aebel, encouraged industry leaders to work together and exchange



expertise in tune with showcasing Ethiopia's potential.

As to the Minister, the textile and leather industry is crucial for value-addition, generating foreign currency, creating job opportunities, and technology transfer.

“By harnessing its local market, labor

force, and increasing demand, Ethiopia can contribute to the flourishing of this vibrant industry and make it a prominent player in the global textile and fashion arena. Ethiopia, with its abundant resources and population, is aiming at becoming the leading light manufacturing country in Africa to achieve

middle income status,” he added.

Ethiopia's rich heritage, diverse culture, and rapidly developing industrial sector present a remarkable opportunity for this industry to thrive, he opined.

As to him, key factors making Ethiopia a hotspot for textile and fashion include its large local market, abundant labor force, Ethiopian Airlines, growing demand, and industrialization movement.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian government attaches great importance to the exhibition, which will bring together manufacturers, buyers, sector specialists, and policymakers to explore African investment potential and promote the African textile industry, he noted.

Stephen Auer, Ambassador of Germany to Ethiopia on his part said that the ASFW is a great opportunity for industry exporters, law makers, designers to showcase their creativity and innovation.

Ethiopian, South Korean MPs commit to bolstering cooperation

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian and South Korean members of parliament expressed commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Member of the Standing Committee of Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs of the Ethiopian House of Peoples Representatives (HoPR) and South Korean parliamentary delegation have discussed the progress of cooperation projects being carried out in Ethiopia.

During the discussion held last Thursday, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Dima Negeo said that the bilateral diplomacy between the two countries should be strengthened.

The two countries have historic diplomatic ties, Dima said adding that currently several

development projects are being carried out in Ethiopia with the support of the government of the Republic of Korea.

HoPR Deputy Chairperson of Health, Social Development, Culture and Sport Affairs Standing Committee, Keyredin Tezera also added that South Korea has been collaborating with Ethiopia for the past 60 years.

The Korea Hospital and Korean War Martyrs monument of Ethiopians is also a showcase of the deep diplomatic tie, he stated.

He invited the Korean delegation to support Ethiopia's development journey in health, culture and sport sectors.

He also briefed the delegation that Ethiopia is always committed to receive Korean investors since it has constructed several industrial parks to welcome foreign investors including Koreans.

Member of the National Assembly of South



Korea, Cheolsoo Ahnon on his part said that various opportunities are yet flourishing to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two nations.

The South Korean MPs also expressed their deep interest to enhance relation with their Ethiopian counterparts, it was stated.

EDIF says working on safeguarding financial sectors

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Deposit Insurance Fund (EDIF) stated that it has launched operation to safeguard finance institutions such as banks and micro finance institutions.

Briefing Journalists on Friday, Fund Chairperson Solomon Desta said that the Fund has commenced its operation upon completing preliminary activities.

As to him, among the various reforms taken so far, EDIF is working to protect the finance sector. The fund would play a crucial role in protecting depositors' interest, collecting premium, investing the premium in to government treasury.

“All Banks, except the Development Bank of Ethiopia, have a right to collect deposit and should become members of the fund. If a financial institution goes into trouble, it will pay depositors their money within three



months. However, in the current situation, the insurance provided by the fund doesn't exceed 100,000 Birr,” he cited.

He further stated that the fund is administered by the government, and the latter allocated an initial budget 200 million

Birr to the fund. Out of the total initial budget financed by the government, the fund received some 25,000,000 Birr from the Ministry of Finance (MoF.)

The Fund CEO Merga Waqwoya on his part said that some 147 countries have been

using Deposit Insurance Fund to make their finance a healthy one. Therefore, Ethiopia is the 148th regarding commencing the Deposit Insurance Fund at present.

As to Merga, the fund has planned to collect over 6 billion Birr till to June – the end of this budget year. The fund enabled to collect some 1.6 billion Birr in the first quarter of this fiscal year. Of the collected finance from financial institutions, some 1.5 billion Birr was invested in government Treasury bill whilst the remained 100 million Birr has been deposited in Commercial Bank of Ethiopia using Mudarabah investment account.

Furthermore, World Bank (WB), National Bank of Ethiopia, Ministry of Finance, and other institutions have been playing a vital role in realizing deposit insurance fund in Ethiopia. Increasing awareness among the public to be members, staffing and training employees, modernizing information system, and establishing strategic plan are the future thematic areas of the fund.

News



Nat'l Disaster Management Council holds regular meeting

ADDIS ABABA-The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, began its regular meeting here yesterday.

Ministers, senior officials of regional states, and pertinent stakeholders, among others, are participating at the meeting.

Opening the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke said the council will deliberate on a roadmap developed with a view to building a national capacity to respond to disaster risks in the country.

The meeting is also expected to discuss current humanitarian support, as Demeke pointed out.

The Council is expected to review and

evaluate Ethiopia's situation with regard to risk and disasters, the problems faced, and set direction.

It is worth mentioning that the Government Communication Service disclosed on Thursday that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Affairs Demeke Mekonnen, would hold a meeting yesterday.

The government has intensified its efforts to provide emergency assistance for those who need urgent help, according to the Government Communication Service.

Accordingly, the government has provided emergency humanitarian assistance for 7.3 million people affected by drought and conflict, ENA reported.

Ethiopia's FTZ ...

The Dire Dawa FTZ General Manager Kamil Ibrahim told journalists yesterday that the zone is making the nation to secure a significant amount of revenues in addition to attracting investment.

He stated that the zone serves as a pilot project to unlock country's investment potentials beyond facilitating special economic zone.

According to Kamil, the Dire Dawa FTZ can serve as a pilot project to expand additional similar zones in other parts of the country.

Moreover the free trade zone is attracting investment, the General Manager said that adding: "Ten investors have already taken shades and engaged in manufacturing import substitutions and export products."

Currently, some 1,000 investors are registered to engage in trade and logistics and are preparing to start their work within the free trade zone soon, he noted.

The Dire Dawa FTZ provides a diverse

ranges of investment opportunities across various sectors including trading, manufacturing, logistics and technology, he added.

Kamil elucidated that the free trade zone enables the nation to be competitive as traders or investors penetrate global market, bolster economic activity, facilitate regional linkage, create a huge job opportunities and consolidate business partnership in the region as well, he noted.

The free trade zone which covers 150 hectare of land in phase one, having additional 4,000 hectare land for future expansion is also a gateway of economic growth for facilitating trade and investment, he elaborated.

He further stated that the trade zone is a lucrative investment area being equipped with modern infrastructure facilities that accelerate trade, logistics and manufacturing, attractive tax exemptions for 5 to 10 years and located at the logistic hub of Ethiopia that has access to ports, airlines and railways.

Czech Premier...

It was learned that the Premier's visit aims to strengthen the bilateral ties with Ethiopia and to enhance strategic and development cooperation in health, mining, culture and other sectors. The visit is also said to bring new opportunities for Czech entrepreneurs in the Ethiopia's market.

"We are an export oriented country and export support is key for our entrepreneurs. We support our economic growth by doing so. The topics of cooperation are clear: defense industry, aviation, healthcare, nanotechnology or engineering," PM Fiala said in his official Facebook page.

He added, "The entrepreneurial part of my journey is co-organized by the Union of Industry and Transport. We want to open more doors for our companies and we want to help them get to African markets. Our companies have a good sound in the world and Africa is an important partner for the Czech Republic and the European Union."

Ethiopia and the Czech Republic established diplomatic relations in the late 1940s. Since then, the two countries have been collaborating in education, agriculture, transport and other sectors.

USAID...

Asfaw Dingamo and the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Ervin Massinga and USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Scott Hocklander.

Speaking at the occasion, USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Scott Hocklander said the urban WASH, 45 million USD project will provide construction and technical support to accelerate access to WASH services in ten secondary cities namely Bishoftu, Adama, Shashamane, Hawassa, Diredawa, Harar, Kombolcha, Dessie, Mekelle and Bahir Dar. "The selection is being made based on different criteria such as witnessing rapid growth, industry focused and water and sanitation service accessibility."

Special focus would be given on professionalizing municipal utilities and building up markets for WASH services including safe toilet pans and hand washing stations that anyone can afford. The program will also help local authorities plan and budget for infrastructure in their areas, the director added.

Meanwhile, the 45 million- USD Climate Resilient WASH project would be also implemented in four states namely Somali, Afar, Oromia (Borena) and South Ethiopia and Central Ethiopia. It would expand climate-resilient water services for pastoral communities to have access to affordable sanitation and hygiene products and services.

According to Hocklander, the projects are expected to benefit 500, 000 people via urban WASH, and enable another 350, 000 to gain access to sanitation services. It also benefit 400, 000 people from the adoption and implementation of measures and strengthen 120 WASH institutions during 2022 to 2027.

"This work is very close to my heart. We know that providing our Ethiopian brothers and sisters with hand washing facilities, improved latrines, and other sanitation supplies ensures that children miss fewer days at school, and that helps families live healthier and more prosperous lives," the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Ervin Massinga said.

For his part, Water and Energy State Minister Ambassador AsfawDingamo noted that the government has been undertaking various measures to facilitate and improve water and sanitation services. "In this regard, remarkable achievements are registered, but there are remaining activities."

These two projects would highly contribute to the benefit of citizens in the water and sanitation sector, he remarked.

Ethiopia was selected as one of 21 countries 'High Priority Country' under the U.S. government's Global Water Strategy, it was learned.

EHRC anticipates...

society organizations and others are highly important to build a human rights culture in Ethiopia.

"These pledges would have a paramount importance to bring about concrete change towards realizing human rights. Besides, Ethiopian state institutions are making these pledges and we continue to provide advice, support and monitor the implementation of these pledges."

Daniel called on the international partners to continue their support to Ethiopia towards fulfilling its human rights obligations. "Ethiopia has made significant strides in expanding the civic space and promotion of human rights since the political and legislative reforms in 2018, however these positive steps have been overshadowed in recent years by serious human rights and humanitarian law violations in the context of violent conflicts."

Regional Representative of the UN Office of Higher Commissioner for Human Rights (UDHR), Marcel Akpovo who mentioned some positive achievements over the years, indicated there are still worrying signs that the

civic space globally has continued to shrink, exacerbated by the security challenges.

"Tough the government has made commendable efforts to hold some perpetrators of violations accountable; there remain serious challenges in ensuring accountability for human rights violations."

The UDHR is more relevant today than ever amid a challenging global context marked by surging conflicts, continued discrimination -in particular against women and girls and pervasive poverty affecting millions of people. Moreover, as Ethiopia is on the right path toward peace, accountability and reconciliation, including the development of a comprehensive national policy on transitional justice, the UDHR is vital for human rights and is the only foundation for more sustainable development and peace, the commissioner emphasized.

Various pledges and commitments with specific actions to be presented at the UDHR 75th anniversary of high-level global summit in Geneva scheduled for December 2023, it was learned.

Opinion

Ethiopia and China relations: Towards an all-weather partnership

BY BETHLEHEM BAYU

In 1970, the governments of Ethiopia and the People's Republic of China established formal diplomatic relations, strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

The two nations have fostered and upheld a constructive and cordial relationship, marked by frequent high-level engagements and a burgeoning bilateral trade volume. The partnership between Ethiopia and China, as demonstrated through their collaboration in various multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, the Group of 77 and China, China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) group of emerging market nations, Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, and the Belt and Road Initiative, serves as a testament to the two nations' strong and productive relationship. Their continued cooperation is a positive indication of their commitment to mutual prosperity and progress.

Ethiopia and China have recently announced a significant milestone in their bilateral relationship. On October 16, 2023, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) of Ethiopia visited China to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. During this visit, the leaders of both nations announced the establishment of an "All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership." This partnership aims to elevate economic cooperation and foster mutual development. Furthermore, it has established a positive paradigm for China-Africa and South-South cooperation. This article will explore the critical aspects of the "All Weather Strategic Partnership, the Belt and Road Initiative, and its implications for Ethiopia and China.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a one-Billion-Dollar Global Infrastructure Development project launched by China in 2013 to enhance regional connectivity and promote economic cooperation between 150 nations and international organizations along the ancient Silk Road routes. The Initiative has played a vital role in fostering the integration and long-term expansion of large-scale infrastructure investments across various sectors, including sea, land, air, and communication. This has significantly improved trade links, particularly for landlocked and least-developed nations such as Ethiopia.

The third edition of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held on October 17-18, 2023, under the theme "High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Shared Development and Prosperity." H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the only African leader to address the opening session of the Third Belt and Road Forum, emphasized the significance of creating a comprehensive global order that recognizes Africa's rising prominence. In addition, in his address at the Third High-Level Forum on "Connectivity in an Open Global Economy," he called for intensified agriculture sector cooperation and industry-centered development cooperation.

During the visit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

and President Xi Jinping announced the establishment of an "All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership" between Ethiopia and China. The partnership signifies a significant milestone in their bilateral relations, elevating it from the earlier level of "Comprehensive and Enduring Strategic Cooperative Partnership."

According to China's ambassador to Ethiopia, Zhao Zhiyuan, this partnership is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the strong friendship between the two countries. It is anticipated to pave the way for deeper partnership in a variety of domains, fostering mutual growth and development.

Ethiopia holds a vital position in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative. President Xi Jinping commended Ethiopia for joining the BRICS framework and emphasized Ethiopia's significance to the advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative as an African nation. Over the past ten years, China-Ethiopia partnership under the BRI had been extensive, fruitful, and pioneering in Africa.

Notably, The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, connecting Addis Ababa to Djibouti City and Djibouti's Doraleh Container Terminal, is a significant early BRI flagship project, inaugurated in 2018 enabled landlocked Ethiopia a good connection between the hinterland and the seaport. The economic corridor accounts for more than 95% of Ethiopia's foreign trade. The construction of the railway lowered transportation expenses and travel time from three days to ten hours. Furthermore, the Chinese government has also established the East African Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Djibouti to promote regional trade.

In recent years, the brisk Ethio-China cooperation in constructing hydropower plants, industrial parks, and railways has benefited the local population immensely. Huge Chinese investments in Ethiopia's hydropower, wind power, and grid network have enabled Ethiopia to achieve its vision of

becoming a regional hub for clean electricity exports.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister's visit to China for the Belt and Road Initiative Forum further solidifies Ethiopia's commitment to the initiative. It presents an opportunity for Ethiopia to explore new ways for regional economic partnership and strengthen its position as a critical participant in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership between Ethiopia and China aims to achieve several key objectives. These objectives include deepening economic cooperation between Ethiopia and China, facilitating trade, investment, and technology exchange, fostering mutual development through their collaboration, contributing to the growth of their respective economies, supporting infrastructure development in Ethiopia, leveraging China's expertise and investment in this sector, and strengthening cultural, educational, and tourism exchanges to promote a greater understanding between their people.

The All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership substantially impacts Ethiopia's economic growth and development. The partnership will accelerate Ethiopia's infrastructure development through leveraging China's experience and investment in the area. The cooperation will be helpful in the expediting of significant infrastructure endeavors such as transportation networks, energy facilities, and industrial parks.

The "Infrastructure Connectivity Fund" established under the BRI platform will benefit Ethiopia. Furthermore, Ethiopia's BRICS membership and prominence as an African BRI model grants it preferential access to loans and other financial support from the BRICS' "New Development Bank." Furthermore, the partnership will encourage more Chinese investment into Ethiopia, promoting economic growth, generating job opportunities, and facilitating knowledge



transfer, allowing Ethiopia to leverage modern technologies for its industrial development.

For China, the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership with Ethiopia presents opportunities to enhance its influence in Africa. Ethiopia's strategic location, abundant resources, and rapidly growing economy make it a viable partner for China's Belt and Road Initiative. The partnership shall strengthen China's economic presence in Africa, allowing it to gain access to new markets and resources. China's relationship with Ethiopia will also help to strengthen China's position as a worldwide leader in infrastructure development and international cooperation. It will strengthen China's commitment to developing mutually beneficial partnerships and contributing to the development of the global economy.

Establishing the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership between Ethiopia and China marks a significant milestone in their bilateral relations. The newly established partnership, declared during Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to China for the Belt and Road Forum (BRI), is centered on enhancing economic cooperation and promoting mutual development between the two countries.

The partnership between Ethiopia and China has opened a world of opportunities. Fostering infrastructure development, trade, investment and people-to-people relations has paved the way for a brighter future. Its implications are promising and both countries will see the benefits. Ethiopia's vital participation in the Belt and Road Initiative makes partnership with China critical for economic growth and development. By forming this relationship, Ethiopia obtains access to key resources and infrastructure, while China expands its influence in Africa.

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

Editorial

Commendable progress in wheat production

Agriculture remains a critical part of Ethiopia's economy, accounting for 40 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 80 percent of exports, and an estimated 75 percent of the country's workforce.

Wheat, a staple grain that has been cultivated for thousands of years, plays a pivotal role in the diets of millions worldwide. For Ethiopia, a nation with a rich tapestry of history and culture, wheat is more than just food; it's a symbol of sustenance and economic vitality.

Recently, Ethiopia has become self-sufficient in wheat for the first time in its history, African Development Bank (ADB) President Akinwumi A. Adesina said.

Speaking at the Norman Borlaug International Dialogue-World Food Prize 2023-Des Moines, Iowa, USA, the president said that Ethiopia's wheat production has increased from 1.4 million hectares in 2022 by an additional 1.6 million metric tons in 2023.

Ethiopia's success in this regard is the extension of both in areas of land cultivated and the amount of product gained. According to the president, its land cultivation has been increased dramatically from 5,000 hectares in 2018 to 1.4 million hectares in 2023. Accordingly, its wheat production has also increased amazingly by recording 1.6 million metric tons in the 2023 harvest year. This success makes Ethiopia not only wheat self-sufficient, but also quit importation and even start exporting to neighboring countries.

Documents indicate that many entities bear witness about the success Ethiopia registered in wheat production. For instance, officials from IGAD countries said that Ethiopia's success story in wheat self-sufficiency is exemplary to Africa; IGAD member states in particular can share the country's experience in wheat production and self-sufficiency.

True, what Ethiopia has archived is a clearest indication that Africa can produce agricultural products more amount than its consumption. The continent, which is home to 65% of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land, ironically imports most of its food. African leaders are intent on ensuring that their countries are self-sufficient in food and become food exporters. There is a realization that by 2050, the global population will reach nine billion, creating a pressing need for Africa to increase agricultural productivity to meet rising demands for food.

In the case of Ethiopia, the success gained is not as simply as doing business as usual. Rather, it needed much effort to convince the stakeholders. Thanks to the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and bodies in the pipeline like the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural research institutions, agricultural development agents and the farmers; the country's potential has been seen boldly and could grab attention of largest continental financial institutions like ADB.

Though it is hard to some entities to accept this success, the country, that used to import wheat for local consumption, portrayed its capacity by making wheat importation history and even began exporting to neighboring countries. The success registered last harvest seasons will continue largely and can be replicated by other crops, too. To this end, the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the stakeholders in the sector has imported fertilizer sufficient to this year's different harvest seasons, irrigation, autumn and the main harvest season.

In fact, ensuring food self sufficiency goes beyond wheat surplus production. It must be accompanied by other crops too like rice, corn and cereals. As the country has vast arable land convenient for rice cultivation, remarkable results are seen in some parts for instance in Jimma Zone, Oromia state and the like. There are also other regions conducive for rice production so that the same result will be registered.

The globally recognized success of Ethiopia in wheat production testifies that the country's journey to prosperity will be attained in no longer time. Thus, its effort should be backed by concerned bodies such as ADB, international financial institutions, the developed world and the Ethiopian Diaspora communities.

Opinion



Monument to Kuzma Minin and Dmitry Pozharskiy on Red Square in Moscow.

On Russia's National Unity Day

By H.E. Mr. Evgeny Terekhin,

Ambassador of Russia to Ethiopia

On November 4, Russia celebrates National Unity Day. In modern Russia, it has been celebrated since quite recently the holiday received its official status in 2005. However, its roots go deep into history.

National Unity Day is directly related to one of the most dramatic, epoch-making periods in the history of our country. At the beginning of the XVII century, Russia was experiencing the Time of Troubles which started after the death of Tsar Fyodor I, the last one of the Rurik dynasty. The Tsardom of Russia was actually on the verge of collapse: as a result of conspiracies, coups and interventions, rulers and pretenders to the throne were replaced one after another.

In 1609, King of Poland Sigismund III began its military intervention against Russia. A significant part of the country came under the control of Polish-Lithuanian troops, with Moscow occupied by the invaders.

After the failed attempts of the first volunteer corps to liberate the country from foreign invaders, the formation of the second one began in Nizhny Novgorod on the initiative of Russian merchant Kuzma Minin. Prince Dmitry Pozharsky was invited to command the army. As a result of a fierce confrontation, the volunteer corps liberated Moscow from interventionists on November 4, 1612.

With the expulsion of the Poles from the Kremlin, the long period of the Time of Troubles finally ended. A few months after the liberation of Moscow, the Zemsky Sobor (an equivalent of a national assembly), which included representatives of all social classes of the country, elected a new leader Mikhail I to become the first tsar of the Romanov dynasty.

It has been more than four centuries since the events of 1612, but this heroic deed of the people still strikes us with its powerful patriotic impulse, with the depth of their love and care for the fate of their Motherland. The soldiers of the volunteer force demonstrated sheer heroism and unity regardless of their origin, religion and social standing. More than 10 000 people – a huge army by the standards of the time – stood up to defend Russia. Along with the Russians, the corps included the Mari, Chuvash, Komi and other ethnicities. The battle motto of the corps were the words "Together for the common cause!". This historical phrase is still relevant today. National unity is not just a good metaphor. It means a real basis for

the existence of the Russian multinational and multi-religious state.

Both Russia and Ethiopia know firsthand the importance of those enduring values of which National Unity Day serves us as a reminder. A genuine love for the Motherland, unquestionable readiness and commitment to defend it, desire to be worthy of the feats of ancestors and remain devoted citizens – all that is embedded in the cultural code of the multi-million and multi-ethnic peoples of our two countries.

Needless to say that Russia and Ethiopia have faced challenging times, with glorious pages written into the chronicles of our history. Our predecessors were experiencing some of these difficult moments shoulder to shoulder. During the Battle of Adwa, the army of Menelik II included a group of Russian volunteers under the command of Nikolai Leontyev. 30,000 rifles and 5,000 sabers were sent to help the Ethiopian army, with the Russian Red Cross mission arriving in Ethiopia to give care for the wounded soldiers. The countries provided unconditional support to each other in the fight against the Fascist and Nazi invaders in the 1930-40s. In 1977-1978, during the Ogaden War, Moscow once again supported Ethiopia with the supply of weapons and military advisers.

This historical connection, forged since the Battle of Adwa, has created a strong spiritual and emotional bond between the peoples of our countries, continuing to remain the foundation of our close interaction based on mutual respect, understanding and assistance. Undoubtedly, a special role in the lasting friendship between the states has always been played by the brotherhood of Russian Orthodoxy and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

The current stage of Russian-Ethiopian relations also deserves very high praise. Along with the enhancement of political dialogue and economic ties, cultural, humanitarian and educational cooperation as well as public diplomacy interaction are expanding at an accelerated pace. Indeed, in each of the areas of our partnership there is a significant intensification of our joint work.

Having withstood the test of time, relations between Russia and Ethiopia can be characterized as strong, solid and comprehensive, having now acquired a multifaceted, mutually beneficial character. It gives us a reason to look into their future with great optimism and unwavering confidence.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture

The new generation of African artists should shine on the global stage

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

What is called in the West “the award season” is now over with the end of summer and the setting of winter which may not be a good time to speak about arts. Winter may not create the mood for celebrating the arts. It is however a good time to write or read books, by the fireside or in bed as the snow rattles the windows outside. In Africa on the contrary, the climate is marvelous at this time of the year although climate change is sometimes creating shocking surprises. We get thunders and rainfalls in the middle of sunshine at the wrong time of the season.

Regarding artistic awards, which is our main concern here, there are a number of success stories coming out of Africa although they are not many. Here and there, African writers, artists or movie makers are winning prestigious prizes in various genres. The sad thing is that these prizes and their winners are not widely publicized in African countries while Europeans and American media are past masters in making their achievements known to the rest of the world.

Western media are serious when it comes to making money by selling the American Dream to the rest of the world. They have a number of prestigious literary and arts awards such as the Nobel, the Booker, the Commonwealth, Pulitzer, National Book Awards...etc. They have built solid institutions for movie awards such as the Cannes, Berlin, and other movie awards in various categories.

Where is Africa in all this? Almost nowhere. True, there are African writers and moviemakers, or black actors or writers who are accorded one of these awards to celebrate their merits. Let us look at this year’s Nobel Prize for literature. Personally, I was expecting Kenyan author James Ngugi, or Ngugi wa Tiongo in his native Gikuyu, to win the Nobel this year as he was shortlisted several times in the past. Ngugi, along with Soyinka is no doubt the great old doyens of African literature. True, longevity has nothing to do with the Nobel award but Ngugi is an exceptional writer who has spent his entire working life writing books that matter for Africa and the world at large. Unfortunately an obscure author from Europe has dashed our hopes and Ngugi is left behind this year. Who knows next year may be his time for revenge.

The situation in cinema is even worse. African films and filmmakers have won some prestigious awards in the past. Nowadays, they are almost forgotten as they are struggling in the shadows of the big studios who choose what kind of movie to make as well as what kind of movie the audience should see. Otherwise, Ethiopian filmmakers Haile Gerima should at least be nominated or shortlisted for another prestigious award. And when we look at Ethiopian cinema, we realize that it is still struggling with ‘pangs of childhood’, so to say. In a global industry dominated by the money churning studios in Hollywood, artists like Haile have little or no chance to catch the attention of movie moguls and the studios they control.



It is not necessary to go back to the history of Ethiopian cinema in order to assess or understand why a once promising industry is now caught with paralysis to such an extent that it is almost going out of existence, let alone thrive and conquer the outside world as many African film industries are doing at this moment. To begin with, the modern Ethiopian industry started on a weak financial and knowledge bases. Its trajectory was not well-planned, studied and launched with the necessary insights or vision that could feed the industry with creative alternative to ensure its long-term survival. Everything was done spontaneously without the necessary preparations and institutional support from government or the private sector.

When we talk of art, we are not talking exclusively about cinema. There are also other artistic endeavors including painting, music, sculpture, advertising, designing, fashion and others. We focus only on cinema and literature because they are better known than the other fields and command media attention and larger audiences or followers. The art market is for instance an important component of the world of arts but information about its progress is scanty and awareness is very low. This particular area hits the headlines only when there are scandals or sensational stuffs around it. The movie market and the literary market to some extent command chronic public attention and the media give them exclusive focus for many reasons although their understanding or appreciation of African and Ethiopian arts is inadequate.

Unlike countries like Egypt or Nigeria and South Africa, the Ethiopian film industry had no experience to build its future on. No doubt that there is a great deal of enthusiasm and energy among the new and young crops of Ethiopian film makers but that is not enough to run an industry because the film industry is above anything else about vision, skills, money and experience.

The other point is that the Ethiopian film industry had no ambitious plans of turning into a vibrant undertaking with lofty objectives such as becoming a strong industry that would provide employment for tens of thousands of young people and generate huge incomes to the country in the

form of taxes to the government.

Public and private institutions were not involved in setting grand national development objectives as India, Nigeria, Egypt or South Africa have already done. There was no government film policy that could show the way towards these strategic objectives. In brief, cinema was largely understood as an entertainment outlet only, or there was no serious commitment on the part of the major players.

A decade or two ago, the art scene had started to show vibrancy and cinema in particular has been emerging from its long hibernation. With the rise of young and ambitious script writers, actors and producers, Ethiopian cinema in particular seemed to be set for a kind of rebirth. People with money had started to be attracted to the nascent but feeble industry in the hope that their investments could produce sustainable profits or lucrative incomes. All in all, the industry had started to take baby steps.

That was justified because almost all industries start with money and making money is their primary objective. Nothing can be achieved without money unless there are banks that are willing to provide generous loans, as the big Nigerian banks, in order to help aspiring filmmakers to live their dreams. The Nigerian film industry was hugely supported by some of the biggest banks that have contributed to its phenomenal growth, making Nigeria the third biggest producer and exporter of films in the world.

However, in an industry that needs heavy financial infusions for its growth, the Ethiopian film industry could not grow and thrive by producing with low-budget low quality video movies and cast and crew that are sweating on meager pays or starvation wages that barely cover their daily expenses. In the absence of awareness of the economic potentials of the film industry as employer, taxpayer and source of income for so many people, hopes are set to quickly turn into disappointments. This is what has happened to the domestic film industry at present.

Producers whose first films were successful had started to reinvest their money in the industry in the hope they could get enough returns to reinvest in the industry so that

they could make more films every year. Their hopes may have sounded romantic at that time because making films in the local languages had its particular attraction as anyone could understand the stories and enjoy them. Some of the movies produced in the early days had even international appeal and were selected by international juries at international festivals. That has changed now.

Alas! Those hopes and aspirations turned into disappointments as unfavorable winds started to blow and carry away those sweet dreams and youthful energies. The unfavorable winds did not blow for a long time. Neither they were able to undermine the sweet dreams had the foundations been built on solid grounds. First COVID 19 struck in 2020 and then film making in this country crumbled like a house of cards while stronger industries across the continent braved the storms, ensured their survivals and rose quickly as the bad wind abetted within two or three years.

The Ethiopian film industry however could not survive the blow or fight for its because of its weak foundation and the financial starvation and absence of support it was exposed since its revival two decades back. The studio owners that could be counted on the fingers of a single hand were caught in allegations of fraud and shifted the meager profits they made during the early “boom” from cinema to real estate or any other more secure investments. The flood of new films that appeared every week and the long queues around movie houses disappeared due to the pandemic and even long after it subsided.

Taking part in international competitions may not improve the standard of arts or literature in any country and yet international competitions certainly give you the visibility that African arts or literature need if they want to be seen on a par with the developed world. Visibility can be seen as a certificate for accession to global art and literature markets. If the world does not know you, you remain in the shadows and the best achievement would certainly be limited to local visibility that does not mean anything in terms of promoting your art or literature in the world stage.

There are of course many African artists and writers who have made their names in the global marketplace and have even achieved celebrity status. However, in this fast changing technological age, any filmmaker or writer worthy of the name should be ready to join the highly competitive global stage which is already crowded with established as well as new celebrities while African and less so, Ethiopian professionals, are watching the show from afar.

The new and upcoming generation of African writers and filmmakers need to change this unjust and unfair relationship by adopting a more aggressive, more creative and more productive attitudes to claim their legitimate places in the contest for outsmarting one another and become the pride of Africa as well as the black race in general.

Law & Politics

The significance of GERD beyond Ethiopian borders

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has been emboldening and pushing its neighbors to promote joint developmental projects in a region where the quest for socio-economic growth is ever increasing. The nation has been leading by example and championing collaborative development initiatives that benefit the whole region. In order to accomplish collective growth, the nation has been joining hands with regional nations, and various shared projects are ongoing in the region currently.

The nation's willingness and dedication are demonstrated by the energy and electricity it provides to its neighbors. The country has made investments in initiatives that will have a positive influence well beyond its borders. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is the focal point of these endeavors. The downstream countries stand to gain greatly from the iconic project, which is entirely financed and being built by Ethiopia.

The Africa's massive hydro dam is important for the entire basin. The dam offers multiple benefits that benefit the whole area, from preventing flooding to guaranteeing a controlled water supply. Ethiopia can export much-needed electricity to neighboring and regional countries thanks to its hydropower capacity. Additionally, the project creates a window of opportunity for regional cooperation in the basin that has been marred by centuries of animosity.

Ethiopia has already upheld cooperation as the only course of action in the area, rejecting confrontation. In addition, the flagship project serves as a model for other countries looking to collaborate on development. As the dam's construction continues, Sudan's flooding events are becoming less frequent over time. Sudan has experienced flooding for many years, putting towns and cities in jeopardy.

Countries that are arid or semi-arid are more vulnerable to climate change than those that are temperate. Furthermore, climate change is most likely to blame for Sudan's droughts and flooding. Building reservoirs and developing upstream countries' water infrastructure is the best way to lessen extreme hydrological events, such as flooding and alteration of water levels, which are most likely to be brought on by climate change.

Water infrastructure development of upstream countries including reservoir construction is the best alternative to mitigate extreme hydro-logical events, including the alteration of and flooding, most likely to be caused by climate change. It has been expressed that the dam will allow for regulated and sustainable minimum flow levels in the dry season.



It will regulate the steady water flow throughout the year and it will avoid unexpected flooding to downstream countries.

As a result of the green project's increased year-round, sediment-free water availability, underperforming downstream hydropower schemes will be able to function more efficiently. Sudan and Egypt will gain a great deal from GERD since it will provide a consistent water supply all year round.

Furthermore, the dam helps reduce climate change and conserve biodiversity. Countries should collaborate closely and make joint investments as long as water is still severely scarce and the effects of climate change worsen. Ethiopia has maintained that GERD should not be a source of conflict but rather a means of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The third round of talks on the rules and guidelines for the filling and annual operation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) kicked off today, 23rd October 2023, in Cairo, Egypt, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Ethiopia participates in these negotiations with a commitment to a negotiated outcome through the trilateral talks.

Ethiopia is optimistic about these negotiations because of the framework established by the Agreement on the Declaration of Principles (DoP). It stated that these discussions are a component of the three nations' attempts to establish more robust alliances, said Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its recent statement.

The three nations are supposed to fulfill their joint obligation of making sure that the Nile River is used fairly and rationally for this reason. The ministry noted that that these discussions allow the three nations to cooperate if they strive to develop innovative solutions serving the interests

of all.

Ethiopia thinks that by using this platform, the three parties can better comprehend and address the issues and concerns of each and every riparian state by adhering to the idea of fair and reasonable use.

Ethiopia does not intend to harm lower riparian countries in the process of developing the Abbay River to suit its needs. The GERD's initial filling was made possible by last year's heavy rains, and he added that the GERD's existence alone probably prevented catastrophic flooding in neighboring Sudan.

According to studies, Khartoum spends more than \$50 million USD annually to avert flooding. Therefore, building a dam upstream will save Sudan's flood prevention efforts money.

In addition to mitigating floods in the countries downstream, initiatives such as GERD are essential for establishing an electrical grid connection in the area.

According to a study by Belachew Chekene of the University of Huddersfield in the United Kingdom titled Benefit of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project (GERDP) for Sudan and Egypt, GERD will enable controlled and sustainable minimum flow levels during the dry season. It will prevent unplanned flooding in countries downstream and maintain a constant water flow throughout the year.

In terms of energy and power generation, GERD will improve the efficiency of underperforming downstream hydropower projects by ensuring more consistent, sediment-free water availability all year long. Indeed, by providing a consistent water supply all year round, GERD will be extremely beneficial to Egypt and Sudan.

Ethiopia's dam will control the Nile River's natural flow, reducing the risk and expense of flooding in Sudan. Ethiopia

has stated that GERD could be a source of win-win cooperation rather than a point of contention for this reason.

Due to the overflow of the Blue Nile and heavy rains, Sudan experiences an unparalleled flood each year, which exacerbates the nation's socioeconomic problems. The Nile River's excessive water flow frequently causes Khartoum to experience severe flooding. It kills people and ruins livelihoods.

Building dams and other infrastructure upstream of the Nile is, in his opinion, the only permanent way to lessen and prevent flooding in Sudan. He goes on to say that, "though the recent flooding was a small incident, we believe the fact that GERD started to hold water is helping the country to avoid more risk of flooding." And Sudan will see a major decrease in flooding when GERD is completed and running at full capacity. GERD could be very beneficial to Sudan. Furthermore, if the nations cooperate closely, there is a huge window of opportunity over the Nile.

GERD will stop the Rosaries Dam in Sudan from overflowing. Upstream dams, like GERD, will have a greater impact since they retain more water during the rainy season, which will eventually lessen flooding in Sudan. Experts from Sudan have also examined the matter and are fully aware that constructing dams and other comparable infrastructure in the Blue Nile will help lower the country's risk of flooding.

Due to their vulnerability to flooding, Khartoum and other parts of Sudan spend billions of dollars annually on flood control measures. Sudan's risk of flooding could decrease, though, if more dams are constructed in upstream nations, and Sudan will receive controlled water flow from the Blue Nile once GERD is finished. Additionally, this will reduce the expense of preventive measures for the nation.

Red sea a source of cooperation than confrontation

- Assistance Professor Ahmed Zekaria

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today, Ethiopia is one of many countries that have no ports. So many years have elapsed since the country has lived without a port. When Eritrea was declared independent, it took both the Assab and Massawa ports.

The East African country has several options for peaceful access to the sea. All of them could have a positive economic impact not only in Ethiopia but across the region. The options include further engagement with Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somaliland on equitable terms for the use of their ports.

The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor with Kenya, which is still in its early phases, could also be a game-changer in the region if built to completion. Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing economies on the continent. It also has a large population, estimated at around 126 million and projected to grow at about 2.7% a year. This indicates a big market, and many needs need to be met.

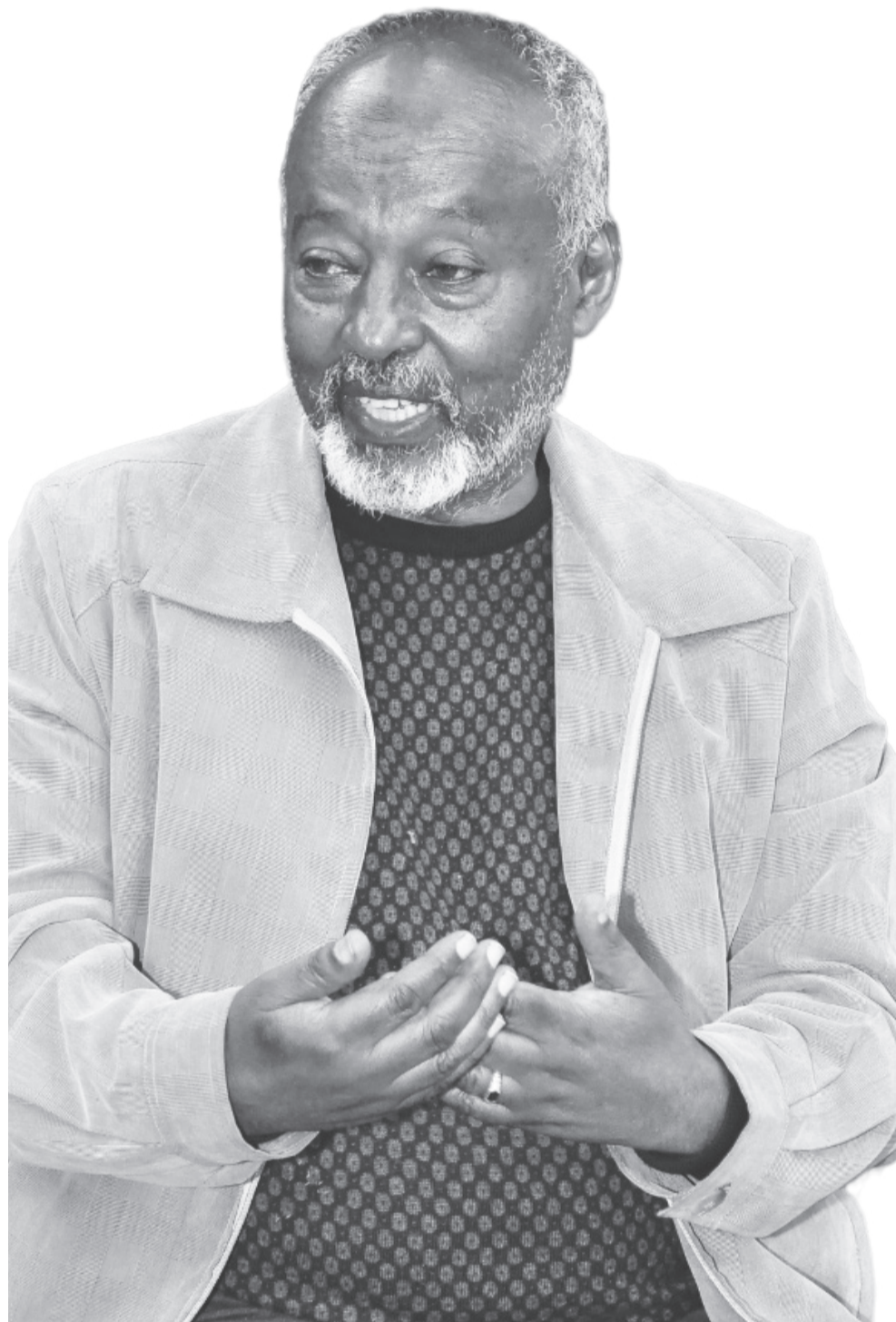
Economic development became central to fiscal and economic planning and projections in the period between 2000 and 2012. But lack of direct coastal access became a notable obstacle to Ethiopia's efforts to achieve middle-income status via export-oriented industrialization. At one time, Eritrea's Assab port handled 70% of Ethiopia's trade.

At present, Ethiopia's imports and exports mainly pass via the port of Djibouti. Reliance on Djibouti has proved costly and unsustainable, however, leading Addis to search for alternatives. Coastal access would give Ethiopia more political clout to help it achieve its ambition of dominating the Horn of Africa.

Peaceful access to the coast would depend on its relationships with its neighbors. Some have been strained, others harmonious.

Since 1991, Ethiopia has been on a path of regional dominance, aided by its economic dominance in the region and in Africa. This was interrupted by its war with Eritrea between 1998 and 2000, which remained unresolved until 2018. The conflict limited but did not end Ethiopia's political ambitions in the region, as seen in the country's foreign policy since the early 1990s. Addis has appeared willing to get its own way in the region by whatever means.

Ethiopia continues to host the African Union and has been an active and dominant member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a regional organization. Since 2018, the country's foreign policy has taken a conciliatory tone. We see this in the rapprochement with Eritrea following a peace deal that restored relations between the two states after two decades of conflict. This suggests a shift from a rigid security-focused foreign policy to a more pragmatic approach to issues that include diplomacy,



As our economic activities were limited, we did not comprehend the advantages of ports and ships and the benefits they bring to a nation's economy

climate change, migration, terrorism, and access to the sea.

Because of its history and geopolitical position, Ethiopia has the potential to be a force for either stability or instability in the region. Finding a peaceful way to improve coastal access would make it a force for stability. Today's guest of the Ethiopian Herald is Ahmed Zekaria, Assistance Professor at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University. He recently had a short stay with Ethiopian press agency reporters and raised important issues on how Ethiopia can access the sea port. Enjoy the reading!

First of all, how would you describe the East African region where Ethiopia is located?

The East African region has numerous histories, and it is an area where various miracles were undertaken. As it is the cradle of humanity, Ethiopia is a country that has several histories. The East Africa region is tied up in a multitude of problems. In this region, there are two types of restless envy. This is more concerning in Ethiopia. These rivals are classified into two categories: historical and natural. Historical rivalry has a wide and long history. Natural rivals are envious of the wealth of the country.

How would you describe Ethiopia's role in the region, especially in the Red Sea area?

Water movements are a sign of civilization. This is expressed in big rivers and seashores. All civilizations seen so far revolve around this. For instance, humankind is moving here and there using various modes of transportation, such as on foot, on mule, on horseback, and on camel, as well as vehicles, trains, and airplanes. However, there is no mode of transportation greater than ships do in terms of bringing benefit to the country.

As our economic activities were limited, we did not comprehend the advantages of ports and ships and the benefits they bring to a nation's economy. As time goes on, our population is increasing alarmingly, followed by an increase in demand for consumer goods. Above all, the economic progress that we have recorded so far has forced us to look into alternative ships.

The desire to seek additional ships also forced us to see alternative ports. At times, when Ethiopia was the owner of the Red Sea, it exported what it produced to Middle East countries. Ethiopia, the owner of the Red Sea and Massawa ports for centuries, is now becoming poor and backward.

In those years, Ethiopia was a pioneer among many countries that gained political, social, and economic diplomatic progress in the Red Sea region. With this, Ethiopia has been recoiled by various foreign diplomats as it has built a capacity that can change the world scenario. The secret behind this is its ownership of the port.

The history of the Red Sea is wide, and it is correlated with Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. As it was a place that centralized the Nile Gorge civilization, we will talk about its history. Because Ethiopia was able to control the Red Sea port, it was a cause for the development of the Axum civilization. Sea trade was the primary reason to be counted as a top civilization, among others.

How could Ethiopia lose its dominant power over the Red Sea port?

Ethiopia has lost its red sea dominance due to colonization. The Horn of Africa is a strategic place that magnetizes the attention of many countries. As the area

Continued to Page 9



Red sea a source of...

Continued from Page 8

is found between the Red Sea and Nile River basins, it grabs the interest of many countries. Both Red Sea and Nile politics are not only a reason for cooperation but also a source for fragmentation among east African countries. It is an area where other countries are also daydreaming of being in command of.

The Red Sea, in connection with the opening of the Swiss Canal, becomes a world trade corridor. Making the Red Sea under control is the curiosity and daydreaming of the world's superpowers. In order not to be jealous of them, these powers made Ethiopia distant from the area.

In the East Africa region, there are eight countries. These countries have enough knowledge and capacity to consult on the process of resolving problems. The aims of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) were to safeguard the East Africa region from famine and drought. Being portless is another face of drought, and thus things should be facilitated in a way to develop and use natural resources. Together, it is imperative to look at alternative means.

Ethiopia is a water tower of East Africa. The country should repeat the long historical process of negotiable use of natural resources in ports as well as agree with neighboring countries. In order to make this happen, it may require consultation and dialogue of various kinds. And I believe that we can resolve the problems encountered and strengthen bilateral benefits.

Our Afari's brothers and sisters have been safeguarding the boundary. The trade conducted in border areas is also highly attached to these people. Those who live in the highlands are not able to reside in the lowlands. And civilizations are found in the lowlands. As the climate in the lowlands is not conducive to human beings, many people do not prefer to go there. Therefore, the highlanders were trading down to the lowlanders. This is a common act that still continues.

The invasion of the Ottomans and Turkey in the 16th century shook the area. We suffered a lot due to the damage. As a result of this, Port Massawa and other places were occupied by the Ottomans until the 19th century.

Following the opening of the Swiss Canal, the shaking increased. The desire of all colonizers was met. Especially as it enabled Chinese and Indians to decline their trade activities to Africa by half and as the Red Sea route is serving as a crossroads for fuel, the significance of the Red Sea is increasing. There is also Ethiopia's share in this because the colonialists in the 19th

century conquered Djibouti, Eritrea, and Somalia from the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's port share is also far away.

In the period after the fascist war, Eritrea returned to its motherland, and we lived in peace, but our leaders made wrong decisions, and Assab Port was taken. Though there were many historical and legal grounds to make Assab Port part and parcel of Ethiopia, we lost it due to the wrong decision made by our politicians.

Still, Ethiopia's quest for a port should be resolved peacefully and through consultation. Our natural resources should be a means of bilateral cooperation, but not something that we are proud of. At present, our population has reached more than 120 million. It is unfair to say that a country with more than 120 million people will continue without a port. This is also not good for the region. Therefore, the role of intellectuals is high in order to use the Red Sea route peacefully.

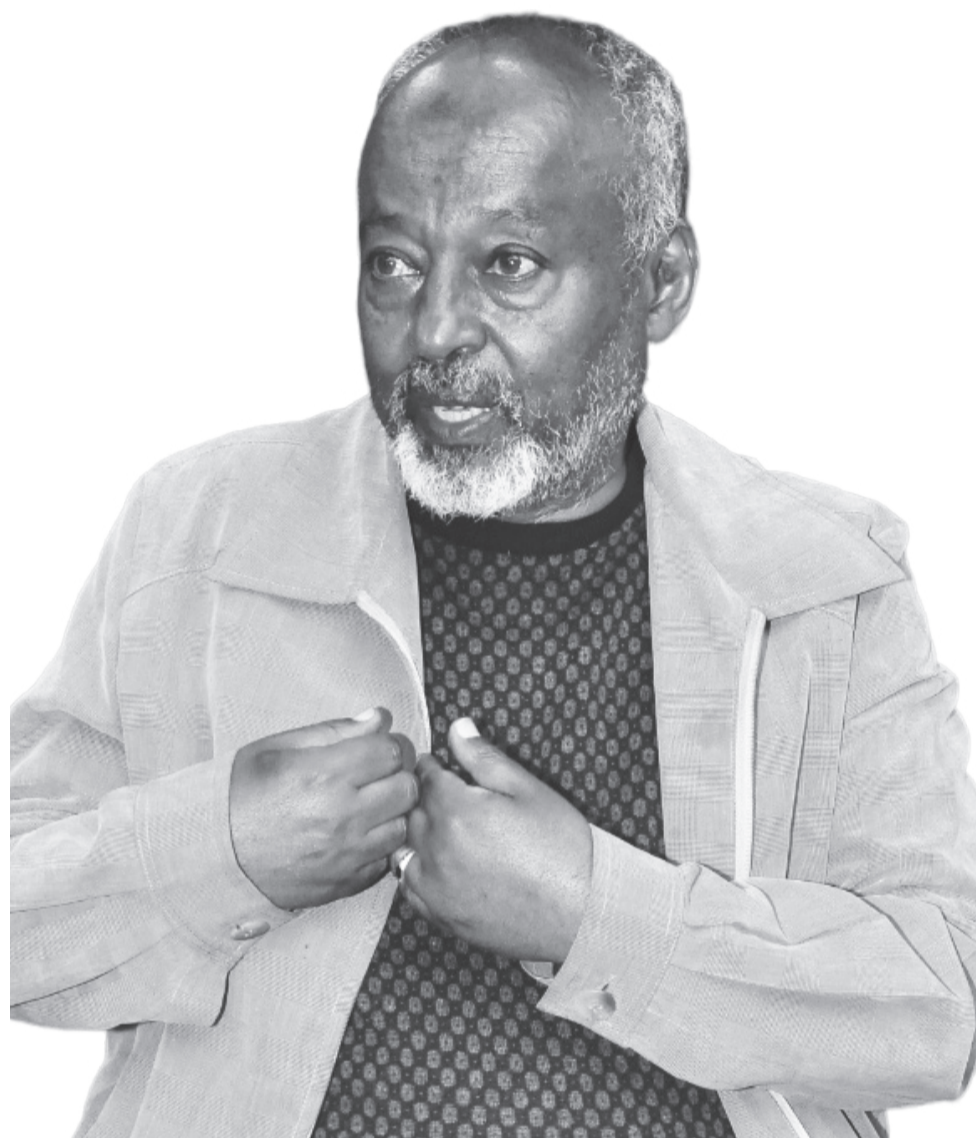
What has Ethiopia lost after its dominance role in the East African region is shrinking?

Being landlocked for the past thirty or so years has caused us countless harm, and we have lost many things. As a country, our trade is hampered. Our expenses are very high. We were unable to import weapons or other things as we wished. To avoid this problem, as the Prime Minister said, we may need to look at several options. For example, jointly developing a port with landlocked neighbors, providing some of the infrastructure that it aims to get, exchanging places, and so on can be seen as an alternative to getting a port. When we consider all these alternatives, we must not forget that following a peaceful process is our first and last option.

On the other hand, ensuring internal peace is a priority. An effort to solve the country's affairs in a peaceful way at any time is homework that is expected from the government or from us citizens. Above all, internal peace must be ensured. Another thing is that every citizen should have a sense of patriotism.

How do you see the work being done to strengthen Ethiopia's role in the region since the change?

It's good that leaders are making a lot of speeches. There will probably be some rough patches until everything is lined up. For example, Somalia and Ethiopia have made some agreements, though each has its own weak sides. But now, various tasks are being done to discuss them with all IGAD member countries. Therefore, I believe that strengthening the task done so far, considering the current conditions of



Ethiopia is a water tower of East Africa. The country should repeat the long historical process of negotiable use of natural resources in ports as well as agree with neighboring countries

the world, and allowing the discussions and consultations to proceed in that form will bring us closer to the result.

If there are international experiences taken to confirm the port owner using peaceful options, could you please explain some to them?

The world experience shows us that the give-and-take principle is always important. Therefore, the IGAD member countries should be able to sit down and discuss the political problems that can be resolved. We understand that everyone is under external pressure. The discussant should take their influencers into consideration and resolve problems while standing on their own two feet.

The situation becomes very difficult if the countries are engaged in unnecessary computation and become greedy standing for their benefit alone. Therefore, I say that the leaders of the eight countries as well as the people of Ethiopia should facilitate and open a platform to discuss the situation. If this can be done and the basis is established, it will not be difficult to agree.

Thank you very much for the time.

It is my pleasure.

Society

“Strong health financing for sustainable health development”

BY STAFF REPORTER

The government of Ethiopia, realizing that health is the foundation to generate a productive society, is investing considerably and working unwaveringly to build healthy communities. As part of this, various works have been carried out to expand health infrastructure, advance the healthcare system, deliver improved healthcare services and address health related challenges in a meaningful way.

Recently, the 25th Annual Conference of the Health Sector was conducted for three consecutive days, from November 1-3, 2023, under the theme “Strong Health Financing for Sustainable Health Development” in the presence of Addis Ababa City Mayor Adanech Abiebie, Health Minister Lia Tadesse, (MD), heads of states’ health bureaus, invited guests, medical professionals and health sector actors and pertinent bodies, according to Ministry’s social page.

Speaking at the conference organized by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Mayor Adanech Abiebie said that the government has given due emphasis for the health sector and is working to improve the services as a healthy citizen is the foundation of a productive society.

In this regard, the City Administration has given due attention and is working on expanding health infrastructure and community-based healthcare services.

She also presented the major activities carried out in the capital in the health sector. Mentioning that health related challenges that come to happen following urban lifestyle demand special care and attention, Adanech said that her administration is taking measures that promote a healthy lifestyle in a manner taking into consideration the existing reality.

According to her, the City Administration by allocating a huge amount of budget is working on expanding health infrastructure, improving the supply chain, increasing health insurance coverage, providing training for health professionals and undertaking community health programs in the capital.

“We have also started implementing the ‘Early Childhood Development Program’ in our city in order to generate children who are well developed mentally; and to help them reach to the mental and physical development that should be achieved by nature as well as to make them healthy, productive and competent citizens in a way the program becomes a model for the country. For the reason that a healthy citizen is the foundation for a productive community, we are working focusing on ensuring the health and safety of the residents and targeting that producing healthy citizens is a key goal for our



Photo MoH

Participants of the 25th Annual Conference of the Health Sector

development.”

Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) announced that the next 3-year plan for the health sector has been prepared in accordance with the direction set by the government.

According to the Minister, in the last Ethiopian budget year, though conflicts and epidemics created a number of challenges in the health sector, encouraging results were registered in the area. The Ministry of Health will work to make universal health services accessible for all.

Stating the core activities carried out in the sector, and highlighting that health finance is the focus of this year’s conference, the Minister said that structural review and a road map that enables to increase the participation of the private sector is prepared.

She also revealed that works, including maternal and child health, renovating

damaged health institutions, and control of epidemics among others, will get special attention. In view of this she urged health professionals, stakeholders, and all health sector actors to join hands and work together to make the effort a success,

Deputy Head of the Addis Ababa Health Bureau Mulugeta Endale (MD) for his part said that the health sector conference will be a platform that participants share good experiences; he said adding that the Health Bureau is implementing a number of programs to ensure the quality of services in accordance to the development of the city.

The Representative of HNP, Scott Hocklander also said that it is evident that there has been growth in the health sector in Ethiopia, especially in community health, health financing, and the participation of the private health sector. He also expressed determination to work together so that the Ministry of Health can achieve its set

goals.

In relation to the 25th Annual Health Sector Conference, a delegation led by Prof. Afework Kassu, Executive Director of Armauer Hansen Research Institute, paid a visit and witnessed the level of healthcare service provision in Ane Dima Health Center, located in Burayu Sub-City, of Sheger City, Yekatit 12 Hospital Medical College and Janmeda Health Center.

Following the visit, Prof. Afework said that the implementation of maternal and child health services, outpatient medical services, the implementation of the Health System Bottlenecks Focused Reform (SBFR), digital information management and other services witnessed in the three health institution are encouraging and can be a good experience for visitors. They should be further strengthened.

In the same manner, on the first day of the conference, lifetime achievement recognitions and awards, outstanding performance recognition and appreciation certificates were given for those serving at the health sector as well as in various areas for their notable and especial contribution in the health sector.

In this regard, health professionals who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the sector received recognition. Equally, acknowledgement was given to health extension professionals selected from all states. What is more, a health exhibition that shows the advancement of the sector was carried out.

The conference was attended by more than 500 participants, including members of the House of Representatives, ministers, professional and civic associations, university representatives, respondent institutions, and partner organizations, it was learnt.

Verbatim and Caption



Amhara region is returning to normalcy following the effective law enforcement measures taken by the government.

The law enforcement actions being taken by the government in Amhara region helps to stabilize the region and citizens to return to their normal lives. Appropriate measures were taken to ensure peace and security of the people in the region to control the illegal forces destabilizing acts.

Legesse Tulu, Minister, Government Communication Service



Ethiopia is preparing to launch its third earth observation satellite named ETRSS-02 within two years. Financial and economic feasibility study has been conducted regarding the launch of the third satellite.

The previous satellites that have been launched into space have successfully completed their mission in the service period.

Abdisa Yilma, Space Science and Geospatial Institute Director-General



Ethiopia's quest for coastal access to sea outlets "is essentially correct" and it would enable increasing the physical economic growth of the people in the Horn of Africa region.

Considering its regional benefit, leaders of the Horn of Africa nations have to consider discussing Ethiopia's quest for having access to sea. Ethiopia's access to the seas would increase the physical economic growth of the East African region and ensure development in the region.

Lawrence Freeman, American Political-Economy Analyst

Verbatim and Caption



Ethiopia has generated 2.2 billion Birr income trading export and substitute products within the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone since the inception. The Free Trade Zone also creates over 2,300 job opportunities.

The Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone facilitates regional and international integration in the area. The Free Trade Zone is part of African intercontinental free trade area.

The Free Trade zone has adequate infrastructures including electricity, water supply, shades, buildings, stores and warehouses. Additional 4,000 hectare of land will be included into the free trade zone.

Aklilu Tadesse, Chief Executive Officer, Industrial Parks Development Corporation

In the first quarter of Ethiopia's current fiscal year, Ethiopia has faced 2,556 cyber-attacks. INSA cyber warriors thwarted the impact of these attacks successfully.

While cyber-attacks on Ethiopian citizens, institutions, and infrastructure are rising, the country's 24/7 cyber defense has enabled it to thwart 97.73 percent of the attacks. Thanks to Ethiopia's tireless cyber warriors, critical systems remain secure.

Solomon Soka, INSA Director General



Ethiopia's import substitution strategy has been bearing fruit. Ethiopia substituted import products worth 350 million USD in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. Enhancing import substitution has been given the utmost priority.

Ethiopia, on average, imports 18 billion USD worth of products while its exports have not exceeded five billion USD. Considering the trade imbalance, the government of Ethiopia has been working to reverse this reality by strengthening the industrial sector.

Melaku Aabel, Industry Minister